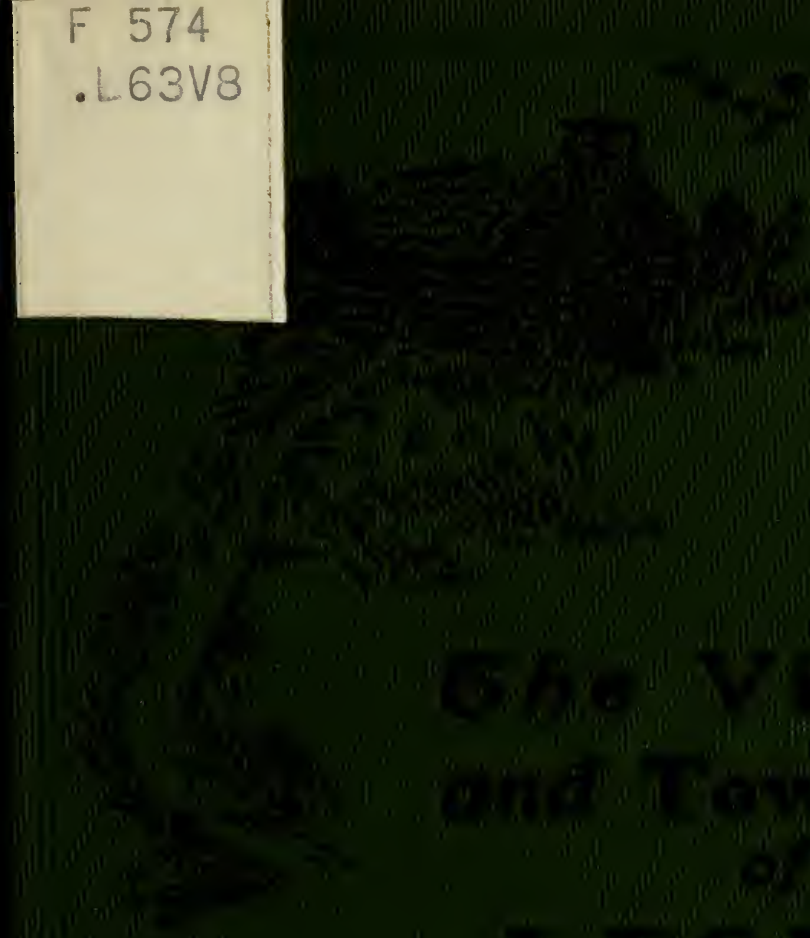
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The Village and Township of LESLIE MICHIGAN



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A Typical Home of the Early Days.

History of Leslie
Michigan

Vliet, Mrs. Minia A.

HISTORY

of the

EARLY LIFE and BUSINESS INTERESTS

Of the VILLAGE and TOWNSHIP of

LESLIE

INGHAM COUNTY
MICHIGAN



PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE ELIJAH GROUT CHAPTER; DAUGHTERS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
1914

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To Horace H. Rackham

Who so generously aided us financially in the publication of this History of the Early Life and Business Interests of Leslie, the Elijah Grout Chapter, Daughters of The American Revolution, is deeply grateful, and hereby expresses its sincere thanks.

HISTORY of the Early Life and Business Interests of the Village and Township of Leslie, Ingham County, Michigan. Compiled and arranged by Mrs. Mina A. Vliet. Assisted by an Historical Committee, Mrs. Lennie Stitt, Mrs. Lois Du Bois, Mrs. Henriette Taylor and Mrs. Lenora Hutchings.

Preface

The Daughters of the American Revolution have endeavored, in this history, to preserve the story of the struggles of the early pioneers of the village and township of Leslie.

A few who remember the early days are yet alive. We feel indebted to the following:

Henriette Taylor, Palmyra Hahn, Leonard Rice, Betsey Shaw, L. A. Royston, Jerome Scovel and A. A. Lumbard, for the material they have furnished and suggestions made. Many others have freely given aid. The committee wishes to express its great appreciation for what they have done. With the new material we have woven in some extracts from the published histories of Ingham county which were written many years ago. An effort has been made to carry the record of each family who came to Leslie before 1850 to the third generation.

The committee begs the indulgence of the reader for any omissions or possible mistakes in this history. All dates and places have been verified so far as possible, from actual participants or family records. To the generations yet unborn this little volume is commended as a sacred roll of honor for those who, by their toil and struggle with a primitive wilderness, made possible the beautiful farms of Leslie township and the charming village in which we live.

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Introduction

In looking back over half a century we find Leslie township just merging into history and taking its name and place among the numerous townships being formed from government land in lower Michigan. It lies in the central part of the state and, on the government survey, is Township No. 1 North, Range No. 1 West. The eastern and southern boundaries were surveyed by Joseph Wampler in 1824, the northern and western boundaries by John Mullett in 1824-25, and the township was subdivided by Hervey Parke in 1826.

Leslie township was at first a part of the township of Aurelius. It was organized as a separate township on December 30, 1837, and received its name as follows: Dr. J. A. Cornell of Spring Arbor was a member of the legislature at that time. When Ingham county was organized and the townships named, each township was called by description and a name was given by various members of the House. When township No. 1 North, Range No. 1 West was called, Dr. Cornell proposed naming it "Leslie" in honor of a much respected family by that name whom he knew in Eastern New York. The name was accepted and appears in the formal act of organization of this township, which was passed in March, 1838. The first township meeting was held at the home of Henry Fiske, a log dwelling which stood near the present site of the Allen House, on the first Monday in April, 1838. Henry Fiske presided as Moderator and Benjamin Davis was elected Supervisor.

History of Leslie, Michigan

GEOGRAPHY

The township of Leslie lies in the southern tier of Ingham county, Michigan. It is bounded on the north by Vevay, on the east by Bunker Hill, on the south by Rives, and on the west by Onondaga. It has a level or slightly rolling surface, is well drained by natural watercourses and is suited to general agriculture. Huntoon Creek runs in a general southerly course across the township, having its sources in Mud Lake on Sec. 3 and 10, and Huntoon Lake on Sec. 13 and 14. The water power on this stream was used in an early day, but later the dams were destroyed and the ponds drained for the promotion of health.

The creek valley serves in part as the right of way for the Michigan Central Railroad and the electric line of the Michigan United Railroad, which give ready access to Jackson, Lansing, and all points north and south.

The village of Leslie is situated in the southern part of the township, and North Leslie is a hamlet lying northwest from the center.

ABORIGINAL INHABITANTS

The early settlers in Leslie found many traces of the long occupation of the county by the various Indian tribes, Pottawattomies and Chippewas, who wandered over the Saginaw and Grand river valleys in pursuit of the game so abundant in their time. Every field, when brought under cultivation, yield-

ed specimens of stone arrow heads, skinning knives, hammers and hatchets. Specimens of copper showed that by trade routes the copper from the upper peninsula had been distributed far from the mines. Bones were frequently plowed up. On Sec. 20, the quantity of bones found near each other suggested either an ancient battle ground, or else a cemetery or burial place.

Indeed, the Indians were yet present in numbers within the memory of some now living. Awed by the strength of the government of the United States as shown by the war of 1812-15, they had by treaty, 1819, surrendered their broad acres to the government and become its pensioners. This pension or annuity was paid annually at Detroit and thence they wended their way once each year to receive the same and participate in a few days of riotous indulgence inthat great luxury—fire-water of the white man. The rest of the year was spent in hunting and trapping. Always hungry, their general relation to the early settlers was that of beggars of flour, tea and food. The settlement of their hunting grounds by the whites soon drove out the game; the diseases—smallpox and measles—so common among the white settlers were invariably fatal to those of the Indians who took the same and thus, as if by magic, they vanished from the land they had so long inhabited. Only one place in Ingham county commemorates an Indian name and that is Okemos, which is named after the Chippewa chief of that name who died at his wigwam near that village in 1858. However, the old Indian trail from the north to Detroit by way of Jackson ran through the town-

ship and served in an early day as the road over which all new settlers came into the township.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

Many of the early settlers of Leslie were educated people who came from refined and religious homes in the east. Fortunately, they did not lose their church letters in Lake Erie on their way to a wilderness home. They left their impress of Christian lives upon the new community where their devotion to truth and practical godliness was known. They met with many trials and hardships but kept ever before themselves the thought that some glad day the wilderness would yield to them of its fruits, giving them homes with all provisions and comforts. At times severe homesickness swept over them and they felt they had not counted the cost. They were obliged to make their beginning in the most primitive way, living in their covered wagons until the little log home could be built. Cooking was done over a fire on the ground. Bread was baked in an iron skillet over the coals. When the nights were cool, fires were built on each side of the wagon. These also served to keep the howling wolves at a proper distance. Indians were often unwelcome visitors. The primitive sounds, sights and conditions reminded them that they were indeed in a new and strange land. Sometimes a letter came to cheer them, but alas! too often the eastern friend forgot the necessary postage of twenty-five cents. Several days would elapse before the required amount could be secured and the message of the loved one obtained. Nearly all privations incident

to the settlement of a new country came to these pioneers, but no repining was heard. A daughter of an early settler says: "I remember when we had only salt and potatoes to eat and we thought it more of a picnic than a hardship—at least the children did."

Early in March, 1836, the first log house in the village of Leslie was built by Elijah Woodworth, on Bellevue Street, near Huntoon Creek. This was followed by a second one near Five Corners, owned by Mr. Loomis; a third near the Methodist Church, by Henry Meeker, and a frame one which is now called the Dowling residence, on Bellevue street by Mr. Elmer. Friends and relatives of the then venturesome pioneers soon followed. Among these were the father and mother of Henry Meeker, two married daughters and another son, Dr. Valorous Meeker, who was the first physician to settle in Ingham county. These families, as was customary in an early day, gave their name to the place where they settled and thus Leslie was christened "Meekerville."

Early Settlers

EARLY SETTLERS

Elijah Woodworth

Elijah Woodworth was born in Mayfield, Montgomery Co., N. Y. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. He came to Jackson Co., Mich., in 1835, by way of Canada. In March, 1836, he cut a road through the forest to Grand River and crossed on a raft. He then came north to the present site of Leslie and built his log house near Huntoon creek. He was assisted in the building by Amos Wortman. He said: "My nearest neighbors north were at DeWitt, Clinton Co.; south four miles there were settlers in Jackson Co., east and west none but natives that I know of. During the summer, new comers in pursuit of homes found my habitation. Each had his name booked as he came to the door and his turn of choice of land followed his registry. Amos Wortman, Jasper Wolcott, and myself, became their guides in the wilderness. Our land was located at Kalamazoo in the order the applications were made."

Elijah Woodworth had two sons:

(1) Solomon.

(2) Albinus.

To Solomon were born seven children: Loretta, Esther, Sarah, Byron, Hattie, Herman and Burdette. Sarah married A. A. Lumbard. Sarah and Burdette live in Leslie.

Josiah Rice

Josiah Rice and family arrived in Meekerville, or Leslie, in 1839. He was a brother of Grandmother Meeker. "Uncle Josiah," as everyone called him, established a pottery near where Mr. Kent's house stands. It was a wonder and delight to all the chil-

dren. They eagerly watched him take a piece of clay, mould it like bread, throw it upon a revolving table, and gradually with his hands and a piece of wood raise and shape it into a bowl, a pan, a jug, or a vase. In the rooms of the Pioneer Society in Lansing may be found a vase marked, "Made by Josiah Rice at Leslie, Mich., 1849."

Josiah Rice married Laura Stone in Sheldon, Vermont, Feb. 26, 1812. Eleven children were born to them:

(1) Fornia, married Clark Graves. No children.

(2) Palmyra A., married Alba Blake. No children.

(3) Stillman, married Harriet Childs. Their children were Mary, Laura, Emma, Augusta, Hattie and Kittie.

(4) Loretta Sophia, died in infancy.

(5) Edwin Nelson, was a bachelor.

(6) Samuel, died in infancy.

(7) Josiah Wood, was a bachelor.

(8) James Hamden. No record.

(9) Leonard C., married Jane Woodhouse. Their children were Mary, Bert, and Edwin.

(10) Laura Ann, married David Lester. Their children were Forest, Florence, Pet, Laura, Gladys, and Roy.

(11) William Henry, married Helen Armstrong. Their children were Eva, Minnie, Blanche, and Lester.

Jacob Armstrong

Jacob Armstrong came from Charleston, Montgomery Co., N. Y., to Michigan in the fall of 1837. Mr. Armstrong has related his experiences as follows: "I hired a man and a team to transport my goods

and arrived at the Freeman bridge over the Grand River on the 9th of September, 1837. I found the river impassable on account of heavy rains. The causeway some thirty rods long between the bridge and the north bank was afloat. I left my goods on the ground on the south side and my wife and I crossed on the floating logs by jumping from one log to another and came to Leslie that night, five miles, on foot. Next morning I started with an ox-team for my goods. The river was still impassable for a team. By the help of three hired men we loaded into the wagon what we could draw, and drew it across on planks laid on the floating causeway and by taking two sets of planks, we could shift them every length of the wagon. We worked faithfully all day—a part of the time up to our waists in water—and got them over and arrived at our home in Leslie some time after dark. Usually when it was known that a family was at the river waiting to come over, settlers would go to their assistance. Sometimes whole days would be taken in getting them and their household goods across. After a time rough canoes were hewn out of basswood trees. The use of these lessened the dangers somewhat. During 1836 the river was crossed on a log raft. As soon as there were men enough to warrant the undertaking, a log bridge was built." Jacob Armstrong was one of the first settlers at North Leslie in 1837.

Amos Wortman

Amos Wortman came to Michigan in 1835 from Genesee county, New York. He remained in Jackson over winter and on March 11, 1836, filed on Section 21. He assisted Elijah Woodworth to build

the first house in Leslie, and boarded with him for two years. On October 28, 1838, he married Miss Charlotte Woodworth and settled upon his farm the following year. He helped cut the first road in the township of Leslie and also helped cut trails or roads through other townships while on hunting trips. These roads were little more than cow-paths.

By his first wife he had five children:

(1) Jane, married Leroy Landfair.

(2) Emily, married George Curtis; second husband, Dudley Porter.

(3) Milton, married Rose Doyle.

(4) Charlotte, married John Robinson; second husband, George Burt; third husband, Seneca Huntley.

In 1855 Amos Wortman married Mrs. Sybil Barnes. By his second wife he had three children:

(1) Orlando, married Hattie Barnes.

(2) George.

(3) Ella.

Mr. Wortman sold his farm in 1888. He died in Lansing on Sept. 29, 1892, and was buried at Leslie.

Sidney O. Russell

Sidney O. Russell, of Seneca Falls, N. Y., filed on land in Section 20 and 29, Leslie, in May, 1836. The following year he brought his family and settled on his farm. Having made a small clearing, he sowed that fall the first field of wheat in Leslie township. Indians were numerous and made frequent calls at his log house, demanding flour, etc., which were not to be denied. Old Chief Okemos was a common visitor. In 1842 Mr. Russell moved into the village

of Leslie that he might operate a water-power sawmill he had bought. To this he added a small store which was the beginning of his mercantile success. Afterwards he erected a steam mill which furnished employment to a large number of men. The last of his building operations were those of his brick business block and his residence on Bellevue street.

Mr. Russell's first wife was Mary Fox, of Seneca Falls, N. Y. To them were born six children of whom three are now living:

(1) Mrs. James Torrey.
(2) Mrs. Mary Baggerly.
(3) Mr. W. S. Russell of Jackson.

To Mrs. James Torrey were born two sons, Lynford and Clayton.

To Mrs. Mary Baggerly, one son, J. Russell.

To W. S. Russell four children were born: Clara, Osmer, Juanita and Leslie.

Mr. Russell's second wife was Rumina Haynes. She survived Mr. Russell who died Nov. 8, 1894.

John J. Tuttle

John J. Tuttle was born in Metz, N. Y., and came to Leslie and settled on Section 7, in 1836. In 1837 he brought his wife, Emma Warren Tuttle, to the log cabin he had erected in the wilderness. She was a granddaughter of General Warren of Revolutionary fame.

His biographer says: "It was five years after taking up his abode in his new home before a team passed his door, or before he was able to see the smoke of any dwelling save his own. His good wife was ever ready to help indoors or out. Often in winter

she assisted him in clearing land by piling and burning the logs. Lye was obtained from the ashes by leaching in sycamore gums and then boiled down to "black salts" which could be sold for making saleratus used in cooking. This and maple sugar were the only products which could be sold for cash in those early days."

Mr. Tuttle was always a good friend to the Indians who frequently encamped on his land. He was a strong-minded man and a delightful story-teller, always trying to make others happy. During his life he served at different times as Supervisor, Justice of the Peace, and Coroner of Ingham county. He had three children:

(1) Sarah Jane.
(2) Ogden V.
(3) Celestia.

Sarah Jane married Daniel Frary. Their children were Elizabeth, Emma, and Blanche.

Ogden V. married Elizabeth McArthur. Their children were Arthur J. and Grace.

Celestia died in 1863.

Mrs. John J. Tuttle died Sept. 2, 1887. John J. Tuttle died Jan. 20, 1903. Both are buried in Leslie.

Daniel Ackley

Daniel Ackley was born in Batavia, N. Y. In 1829 he married Sarah Wortman. They came to Michigan in 1836 and settled on a farm north of town. Bears were plentiful at that time. One Sunday morning he and his wife were taking a walk when she saw an animal which she mistook for an Indian pony. Mr. Ackley secured his rifle and killed

the animal which was a bear seven feet two inches in length.

To them two children were born:

(1) Eleanor, born Nov. 14, 1841; died April 17, 1848.

(2) Martin, born April 10, 1845; died April 5, 1912.

Martin had two children:

Fred, born Dec. 21, 1873; died July 9, 1908.

Sarah E., born June 9, 1876; married Addison Van Alstine and now lives on the old homestead.

Benjamin Davis

Benjamin Davis of Jefferson county, N. Y., removed to Michigan in October, 1836. He remained in Wayne county until January 1, 1837, and then removed to Leslie, having filed on land in Section 20 in May, 1836. His children by his first wife were:

(1) Richard H., married Sallie DuBois, daughter of Asa and Arvilla DuBois. Their children were Clarence, Richard, Benjamin, and John.

(2) Clarissa, married David Potter. Their children were Benjamin, Melissa and David.

The children by his second wife were:

(1) Wilson, married Kate Van Wert. Their children were Stella, Clara and John.

(2) William, had two children, Perry and Delia.

(3) Emily, married Joseph Smith.

(4) Bramwell, had two children, Ivan and Emily.

(5) Dempster, married Mary Haskell. Their children were Willard, Hattie and Stella.

(6) Delia, married W. W. Gates. Their children were Effie, Arthur, William, Olive, Clyde and Olia.

Asa DuBois

Asa DuBois came to Leslie in 1841. He married Orvilla Searls. Their children were:

(1) Samuel, married Mary Jane Helden. Their children were Pluma, Edith and Holden.

(2) Sallie, married Richard Davis. Their children were Clarence, Richard, Benjamin and John.

(3) Meramina, married Miles Smith. They had but one child, Claude.

(4) Caroline, married Thomas Wildey. They had one son, Thomas.

James Royston

James Royston was born in Somerset county, N. Y., April 14, 1800. He came to Michigan in June, 1836, and located upon the place where L. A. Royston now resides. The family came by way of Buffalo to Detroit on the lakes and from Detroit to his farm by ox-team. At the time Mr. Royston built his log cabin there was but one other family within the limits of the present township of Leslie. He may, with propriety, be called one of the founders of the township inasmuch as he was elected Justice of the Peace at the first town meeting in 1838. His children were:

(1) Thomas.
(2) Lemuel A.
(3) William.
(4) Mary Ann.
(5) Sarah.
(6) Cornelia.

William died of sunstroke at Resaca de La Palma in the Mexican War. Thomas died in 1846. Lemuel A. resides on the old homestead. He has six children: Herbert, Phoebe D., Luella, Ellen, Mabel and Vene.

Elisha Godfrey

Elisha Godfrey came to Leslie in 1836, bringing his family with him. When he reached Grand River he found a bridge made of logs which would sink into the water if stepped upon. The father was unwilling to venture with his family in the wagon over this primitive crossing. His little girl, Betsey, who was a cripple, heroically placed her crutches upon a log, pressed it down until it rested stationary, then swung herself upon the log and tried the next in the same manner until she reached the farther shore. This incident shows the inherent bravery, independence and determination which have made the life of Betsey Godfrey Shaw a success and blessing, regardless of environment. Her life history shows the struggles of a child of a pioneer. Her father was not strong and she was thrown upon her own resources early in life. Her school privileges were few. When about fifteen years old she had earned and saved enough money to pay for eight yards of calico at twenty-five cents a yard to make herself a new dress. A little later she added two light calico aprons and a cape to her wardrobe. These capes were made to cross in front and were considered quite dressy, but she had no shoes. Fortunately, an aunt bought herself a new pair and gave the old ones to the girl. These she had nicely mended and though they were two sizes too large she wore them to school all winter and began teaching in the spring. From that time on she was self-supporting.

Elisha Godfrey married Polly Barden. To them were born thirteen children.

(1) Betsey Godfrey Shaw, had two children, Edwin and Emery.

(2) Charles, the second son of Elisha Godfrey, died in infancy.

(3) Sophia Godfrey Jacox, had two children, Henrietta and James.

(4) Richard, had one child, Matie Drake.

(5) William, had five children: Charles, Ada, Frank, Norton and Albert.

(6) Rosetta, died at 14.

(7) Rosina, died at 18.

(8) Berinthe, died in infancy.

(9) Russell, had one child, Mrs. Grace Reid.

(10) Eldridge, died in the civil war.

(11) Pearletta, had seven children.

(12) Pluma Godfrey Tarbell, had seven children.

(13) Harietta Godfrey Small, had five children: Warner, Herbert, Henry, Homer and Boyd. All except Warner and Boyd died in infancy.

Clark Graves

Clark Graves came to Leslie about 1836. He married Fornia Rice, daughter of Josiah Rice. They had no children but adopted a little daughter who is now Mrs. Palmyra Hahn. Mrs. Hahn has one son, Earl. Mr. and Mrs. Graves also raised two boys but they were not adopted.

Mahlon Covert

In 1837 Mahlon Covert settled in Leslie township upon a government claim of two hundred acres. Before leaving New York he married Sallie Chandlers. He began at once to clear the land and build his log

cabin. The forests soon gave way to a fine farm and in 1855 the log house was replaced by a modern home.

In his life Mahlon Covert exemplified strong positive characteristics. His home was blessed with four children:

(1) Ansel.
(2) Samantha.
(3) Mary Ann.
(4) Monmouth.

Ansel Covert had six children: Fred, Carrie, Vernie, Gertrude, Grace and Katherine. Fred and Vernie died in childhood. The others are now known as: Mrs. Carrie Pickett of Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Gertrude Graves, Mrs. Katherine Ludwick of Leslie, and Mrs. Grace Stewart of Cleveland.

Monmouth Covert had one son, Vinton.

Samantha settled in the East.

Mary Ann married Isaac Talman and has two children, Samantha and Fred.

Rev. Elijah K. Grout

Rev. Elijah K. Grout of Fairfax, Vermont, settled in Leslie in October, 1838. He came in the common conveyance, a covered wagon, bringing his wife and three young children with him. He purchased forty acres inside the present village corporation but this he afterwards sold. A new plank house was built on the hill on Bellevue street. This house, without windows or doors except as blankets or pieces of carpets were substituted, was made their happy home in the new land for many years.

In the spring of 1839 Mr. Grout assisted in the or-

ganization of a Baptist church in Leslie and was himself ordained to the ministry in 1841.

This young preacher rode on his pony many miles through the woods, following the blazes on the trees, fording the streams, and hearing the wolves howling in the distance, in order that he might carry to hungry souls the bread of life. For nearly thirty-seven years he preached the Gospel of the loving Christ, endured hardships as became a soldier of the Cross, was faithful unto death and, we believe, obtained a crown of life. His loss was sincerely mourned by all who knew him. He was a fine type of the pioneer minister and knew no man as his enemy.

Mr. Grout had six children, two of whom are now living, Mrs. Henriette Taylor and V. H. Grout of this village.

(1) Mariette, married Amsa Rust. To them were born five children: Minerva, Charles, Ezra, William and Ida.

(2) Henriette, married William Taylor. Their children were Kittie, Carrie, Alfred and Mariette.

(3) Gardner, married Mary T. Harrison. Their children were Hattie, Louise, Gerald and Marie.

(4) Idris Sophronia, married Gurdon Corning. No children.

(5) Hiram Valorous, married Flora Bither for his first wife and Charlotte A. Stuart for his second wife. They have one child, Stuart.

Mrs. Elijah K. Grout was a sister of Henry and Dr. Valorous Meeker, and the daughter of Benjamin Meeker, who were among the first settlers in Leslie.

It is of further interest to state that Rev. Elijah K. Grout was a grandson of the Elijah Grout in whose

honor the Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter at Leslie is named.

Jonas Nims

Jonas Nims moved from Cleveland, Ohio, to Michigan in 1838 with his wife and family of eight children, making the journey with an ox-team, fording rivers and traveling over rough roads. He came by way of "Jacksonburg" and moved into a log house on the Austin farm where he lived for some time. He afterwards bought the Mixer farm and built a log house. He was obliged to go to Eaton Rapids to mill as it was the nearest place where his grist could be ground. It sometimes took a week to complete the trip, and the mother having died, the children were compelled to remain alone in the wilderness until he came back.

Jonas and Elinor Nims had eight children.

(1) The oldest daughter died in childhood.

(2) Benjamin, married Mary Godfrey. They had two children, William and a daughter. Electa Miner was Benjamin's second wife. They had one child, Elinor Nims Down.

(3) Juliette, married Joseph Godfrey. Their children were George, Sheridan, Adelaide, Eunice, Janette, Clarissa, Marie and Luna.

(4) Joseph, married Maria Smith. Their children were Etta and Hattie.

(5) Caroline, married William Wright.

(6) Betsey, married Daniel Wright.

(7) Clinton, married Clarissa Monroe. One child, Elinor. His second wife was Eunice Youngs. They

had six children: Elmer, Curtis, Arthur, Estelle, Abigail, and Wilson.

(8) Dwight, married Mary Jane Monroe. They had two children, Monroe and Jessie.

Washington Scovel

Washington Scovel came to Leslie in 1838. His children were:

(1) Jerome.
(2) Thales.
(3) Orcelia.
(4) Angelette.

Jerome Scovel celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday in May, 1912. He says that he is the oldest man living in Leslie who was born here. When he was nine years old he helped drive the seven yoke of oxen while Eli Barden held the plow which was used to plow up the land where Main street is now located. It was several years before this, while he was riding behind an ox-team with his father, that the dog which ran ahead began to bark furiously. His father said the dog must have treed a squirrel, but investigation showed it to be a large black bear. Settlers always carried a gun with them on trips those days so the bear was shot and Mr. Scovel received ten dollars for the pelt. The little boy Jerome was so frightened by the rapid occurrence of events that he fell on the ground and clasped his arms around his father's knees.

Jerome Scovel married Rhoda Miner. Their children were Lydia and Orcelia.

Thales married Emma Clatworthy; second wife, Malvina Craig. They had one son who died in infancy.

Orcelia died unmarried.

Angelette married Mr. Thorn and had one son, Walter Thorn.

Nelson Norton

Nelson Norton came from Cuyahoga Co., N. Y., in June, 1838. He brought with him his wife, Hattie Clark Norton, and one child. He drove some stock with him and at Detroit, where they stopped for one night, a fine new milch cow was missing, but, happily, was located by the call of her calf. When he reached Leslie he had but ten dollars in his pocket. It took nine dollars of that to buy a barrel of flour. He bought an eighty-acre farm one-half mile south and one mile east of Leslie. Not a tree had been cut on the place until they arrived and commenced to build their log house. Soon after commencing housekeeping Mr. Norton decided he would try to get some venison for his family to eat. Starting out through the woods he soon scared up a deer which he chased into a neighbor's clearing. The two sons of the neighbor saw the deer coming, hurried into the house for a gun and killed the animal just as Mr. Norton came running into the yard. The meat was divided between them.

The children of Nelson Norton were:

(1) Theodore Norton, single, died 1912.

(2) Celestia, married George Taylor. Their children were Flavius, Margaret, Florence and Homer.

(3) George, married Mary Walker. Their children were Ada, Levi and Claude. His second wife was Frances Gibboney. Their children were Nelson, Barry, Elsie and Paul.

(4) Albert, never married.

(5) Edwin, married Catherine Gray. Their children were Albert, Ethel and Sophronia.

(6) Caroline, single.

(7) Adaline, single, died in 1910.

(8) Levi, died in infancy.

Nelson Norton was born in 1813, died in 1884; Hattie Clark Norton was born in 1818, died in 1887.

Calvin Edwards

Calvin Edwards came from Cayuga Co., N. Y., in 1837, with his wife and six children. The family were originally residents of Newark, N. J. They came in a covered wagon and it took a period of five weeks to make the trip. They traveled around Lake Erie through Ohio and could make ten miles a day. Mr. Edwards settled on Section 6 and later moved to Section 18. He was a very energetic, public-spirited man and was prominent in all township affairs until his death in 1851.

Calvin Edwards married Jemima Wade July 4, 1814. She died December 20, 1817. There were two children:

(1) Martha, born July 3, 1815; died April 2, 1816.

(2) Liddie, born June 15, 1817; died Sept. 6, 1817.

His second wife was Phoebe Tuttle whom he married June 7, 1818. By this wife he had six children:

(1) Jemima, born Jan. 15, 1820; died April 24, 1848.

(2) Stephen, born June 14, 1821.

(3) Ogden, born August 8, 1823.

(4) Elizabeth, born May 22, 1825; died Nov. 28, 1862.

(5) Oliver, born April 23, 1828.

(6) Sally, born Oct. 24, 1831; died June 29, 1857.

Jemima married Jebulen Eggelston Jan. 15, 1843. They had two children, Willington, born April 11, 1844; died Sept. 22, 1873; and Phoebe, born Feb. 19, 1846; died April 27, 1848.

Stephen married Ruth Spalding Dec. 12, 1849. Their children were:

Mary M., born Dec. 11, 1846; died Sept. 22, 1850.

Ophelia, born May 17, 1849; died Aug. 5, 1849.

Mary O., born Dec. 12, 1850.

Phache A., born June 29, 1853.

Willis, born Feb. 19, 1865; died Feb. 11, 1866.

Ogden married Jane Austin. They had four children:

Flora, born Oct. 10, 1845.

Floridon, born Oct. 5, 1847.

John, born May 5, 1850.

Ella, born Dec. 26, 1853.

For his second wife he married Marion J. Young. They had one child, Ogden J., born April 25, 1881.

Oliver married Catherine Beach, March 9, 1851. They had six children:

Etta, born March 8, 1856; died October 9, 1863.

Cora L., born April 26, 1858; died Dec. 27, 1860.

Mary A., born June 12, 1860; died Jan. 16, 1861.

Ogden D., born Aug. 5, 1862; died Sept. 20, 1863.

Oliver A., born Aug. 5, 1862; died Sept. 25, 1863.

Allen R., born April 30, 1869. Allen R. married Miss Anna Sayres of Leslie.

Jotham Morse

Jotham Morse left New York for the west in 1831. He made his first stop in Ypsilanti. While there he

married Sarah Harwood of that place. In 1840 he settled on his farm which was located two miles south of Leslie. His first home was a log house. The logs were paced as to length. The roof was made of split shakes. These were held in place by binding poles. The floor was the earth until it was replaced with one of plank hewn out with an ax. The door was a blanket. The chimney was made of split or rived sticks laid up in mud. Windows were a luxury to be obtained afterwards. When the shanty was finished, Mr. Morse took stock and found he had just three dollars in cash. Fuel and food were required. His ax became dull in preparing the first and he had to go two and one-half miles south to Deacon Freeman's who owned the only grindstone in the vicinity. After getting up a woodpile he secured a job threshing wheat for Alva True who lived five or six miles away. The wheat was threshed with a flail. He secured five bushels of wheat as pay but he was obliged to go fifteen miles to mill over bad roads with an ox-team before the wheat could be had as flour for bread.

Mr. Morse lived on the same piece of land for forty-eight years. He died Aug. 13, 1890, and his wife May 28, 1908.

Jotham Morse had eight children:

(1) Olive, married E. W. Kitchen. They had one child, Olive, who was brought up by her grandparents as her mother died when the babe was five weeks old.

(2) Mary, married E. W. Kitchen after the death of her sister Olive. Two children were born to them, Nellie and Alva. Her second husband was D. J.

Owens. Their children were Adelaide, Lloyd and Vera.

(3) W. H. Morse, married Eugenia Way. They have two sons, William and Roy.

(4) Josephine, married William McLennon. They have three sons, Fred, William and George.

The first land entries in Leslie township were made by William W. Harwood, father of Mrs. Jotham Morse.

William Barden

William Barden was born in New York. He came with his famliy from Cuyahoga county, Ohio, in 1837. They traveled with a horse team. The trip was very slow and tedious as the road and trails were very rough. When they reached the Grand river the water was very high and the bridge appeared to be afloat. They crossed by stepping on the floating logs. A few more hours of travel brought them to their future home in the Walker district. Every trial incident to pioneer life came to them. It was fifteen miles to a store. While the father was absent, the family lived in daily terror of the Indians. The mother was very anxious that her children should have an education so she started a school in her home and taught all who came free of charge.

Mr. Barden died in 1881and Mrs. Barden in 1898, leaving five children.

(1) Sally, married Elisha Godfrey. Their children are given in the Elisha Godfrey history.

(2) William, married Harriet Finch. Their children were Corliss, Ceilon, Ida, Fidelia, James and Norton.

(3) Charles, married Jenneth Austin. Their children were Lavance and Nora.

(4) Eli, married Eliza Philkins. He still lives in Leslie.

(5) Julius, married Melinda King. Their children were Ora and Rosa. His second wife was Phoebe Austin Pugsley.

Joseph Godfrey

Joseph Godfrey was born in New York in 1807. He married Lydia Miner of Massachusetts. They settled in Leslie township in 1839. They came from Cuyahoga county, Ohio, with an ox-team. He was a large strong man, well fitted for the hard work necessary in making a home in the wilderness. He made a practice of buying land, making some improvements and then selling at a good profit. The Indians feared "Big Joe" as they called him. For that reason his wife and family never felt uneasy when left alone. He was a hunter and killed much game while looking land. No one in the township seemed more prosperous than "Big Joe." However, after six years of hard work he was taken sick and died. His good wife, with the help of her three sons, continued to improve the farm. In 1850 she married Mr. Reynolds and returned to Ohio. She died in 1856. Her sons were:

(1) George.

(2) Emmons.

(3) Russell.

George, born in 1833, married Mary Cravatt. They had ten children:

Martha J., Seth B., John A., Harvey F., George E.,

Ida M., William F., Stuart E., Henry W., and Asel B. George is living at Tryon, Neb.

Emmons, born in 1836, married Elizabeth Raymond. She died in 1864. He enlisted in the army and returned to Leslie in 1865. He was married a second time and died at Lincoln, Nebraska. He left three children: Dr. Frank Godfrey, Jessie Barnes and Phila Dickeman.

Russell B., the third son, was one of the first to enlist in the war. He was killed at the battle of Gettysburg.

Mrs. Abbie Haynes

Mrs. Abbie Haynes left New York in 1837 with her three children and started for Michigan, the state selected as her new home. Her journey via Canada was uneventful and in due course of time they settled in White Oak township. Later she moved to a farm three miles southwest of Leslie where she lived for twelve years. Then she moved to Leslie. Mrs. Haynes was no common woman. She had a fine intellect, possessed great executive ability and had a vigorous constitution. Her cheerfulness, added to her ready wit, made it a treat to converse with her. She loved society, did not grow old until deprived of her strength, and when she answered to her Father's call she went with the perfect faith and trust of a little child.

The children of Mrs. Abbie Haynes were:

(1) Rumina Haynes, married S. O. Russell. No children.

(2) Ephraim, married Abbie Anne Earl. Their children were Ann, Horace, Sarah, Ed. and Fred.

(3) Frances S., married J. W. Burchard. Their children were John W. and Louisa F. Her second husband was Mr. Newman. They had one daughter, Isadore.

(4) Martha L., married J. C. Leonard. Their children were Frank, Mattie and John.

(5) Horace, had no children.

(6) Barbara, married Mr. Mills. They had one son, Fred.

(7) William, married Geraldine Lansing. No children.

Lester Miner

Lester Miner and his wife, Emily Jones Miner, came to Leslie in 1838. They had seven children:

(1) Washington, married Mary Brown. No children.

(2) Electa, married Benjamin Nims. They had one child, Eleanor Downs.

(3) Harrison, married Josephine Miner. They had one child, Nettie.

(4) Rhoda, married Jerome Scovel. They had two children, Luda and Celia.

(5) Daniel, married Mary Ann Sones. No children. His second wife was Sate Barden. Their children were Claude, Nona, George and Albert.

(6) Joseph, married Nettie Lybolt. No children.

(7) Benjamin, married Emily Jones. Their children were Jennie, Octavia, Emma, Zepha and Everet.

David Jones

David Jones and his wife, Almira Frost Jones, came to Leslie in 1850. Their children were:

(1) Daniel.
(2) Emily.
(3) Lafayette.
(4) Helen.
(5) Eveline.

The children of Daniel and Mary Jones were Alice, Thomas and Fred.

The children of Emily and Benjamin Miner were Jennie, Octavia, Emma, Zepha and Everet.

The children of Lafayette and Adeline Jones were Addie, Frank and Bert. The children by his second wife, Martha Elliot, were Anna, Milo and Glen.

The children of Thomas and Evelina Hunt were Mira, Arthur, Cecile and William.

The children of Thomas and Helen Hunt were Earl and Clarence.

Joseph Woodhouse

Joseph Woodhouse and his wife, Clarissa Dunham, settled in Leslie township in 1842. They had seven children:

(1) Eliza, married Mr. Dikeman. No children.
(2) Emily, died unmarried.
(3) Lemuel, married Caroline Ward. Their children were Estella and Olive.
(4) William, married Sarah Kirby. Their children were Charles, Bert, Fred and Frank.
(5) Nancy, married Daniel Crossman. They had one child, Onie.
(6) Jane, married Leonard Rice. Their children were Mary, Bert and Edward.
(7) Isaac, married Jane Eaton. Isaac invented the first paper-cutting machine ever made. His son,

Carnie, possesses the gold medal awarded him for this machine.

Willliam Doty

William Doty came to Leslie by way of Detroit in 1837. S. O. Russell was to assist him in locating a claim. He invited Mr. Doty to stop for dinner on his arrival, but Mr. Doty declined, saying he did not have time to stop just then. Mrs. Russell gave him a slice of bread which he ate on the run as he tried to keep up with Mr. Russell who took him at his word and plunged into the woods at once. They located 160 acres three and one-half miles north of Leslie, now known as the "Campbell Farm." Soon after his arrival he bought the state right for a patented water-lime cistern. His brother assisted him in the construction and they frequently cleared $25 a day.

Later he disposed of the homestead and purchased what is now known as the "Elias Sanders Farm," one mile north of Leslie. Here he carried on a large stave mill and cooperage business. The mill was operated by horse-power, for which he kept fifteen horses. He afterwards tapped maple trees for sugar, making as high as 2000 pounds in one season.

Wolves were so common that he gave them little thought. His great personal strength made him indifferent to physical danger. He seldom carried a gun for protection. He could hold an iron weight of seventy-five pounds poised on his extended hand. No Indian he ever met could hold more than fifty pounds. He was a man of an iron will and great energy. He was said to have seen more daylight and worked more hours than any other man in the

surrounding country. He died in 1895 at the age of 83 years.

William Doty married Matilda Page in 1840. They had two children.

(1) William, married Augusta White. Their children were Edward, Oscar, Clarence, Maurice and Richard.

(2) Libby Doty, married Albert Dennison. Their children were Nellie and Albert, both of whom died in infancy.

William Doty married Rebecca Harlow for his second wife in 1860. Their children were:

(1) Dora.

(2) Jay.

(3) Clara.

Dora married John Clatworthy. Their children were Clara and Ray.

Jay Doty married Harriet Eliza Pickett. Their children were Paul, Harriet, Elizabeth and Clarence.

Clara Doty married Charles Frederick Pickett. They have no children.

Nelson B. Backus

Nelson B. Backus and bride, Nancy Bugbee, settled in Leslie township on Section 9 in 1837. Their first child, James, was born the following year in February. He is said to have been the second white child and the first boy born in the township. There were four children in this family:

(1) James P., married Almira DeLamater, Feb. 22, 1860. They had four children: William, Alta, Artie and L. C. who died in childhood.

(2) Ellen, married William DeLamater. They had one child, Cora, who died in infancy.

(3) Edwin N., married Mary Wilcox, daughter of J. W. Wilcox. They had one son, Nelson.

(4) Fred, married Celia Miner in 1877. They had one son, Victor O., who died in 1912.

Silas Kirby

Silas Kirby and his brother, Isaac Kirby, settled on the farm now owned by George Wilcox in 1837. Later this place was known as the "Tufts Farm."

Silas Kirby had seven children:

(1) Mary.
(2) Austin.
(3) Allen.
(4) Stephen.
(5) Charles.
(6) Fred.
(7) Sarah.

Stephen ran away from home at night in borrowed clothes to go sailing. The father took away the clothes of the son at night to prevent his threatened departure. This great love for marine life descended to his son, Frank E. Kirby, who is, without doubt, the greatest marine engineer America has ever produced. He has designed the largest passenger boats on the Great Lakes, among them being the Tashmoo, the Eastern States, the Western States, and the See and Bee. His latest river passenger steamboat "Washington Irving," largest carrier in the world, 6000 people, runs from New York to Albany. He has represented the United States in many important conferences and recently returned from Europe where

he attended the International Marine Safety Conference as one of the delegates from the United States.

Homer King

Homer King and his wife, Arsenith Giles, came to Leslie in 1836. As first settlers they experienced the usual hardships and privations. Mrs. King said that at times wolves came so near to the log cabin that she could see their eyelashes. Mr. King was famous as a hunter. S. O. Russell gave him $10 as a bounty for the first wolf killed in the township. Often when walking to his own home from the farm of Nelson Backus, he was obliged to carry a burning fagot to keep the wolves at bay. Indians were proverbial beggars, especially for buttermilk. It was the family custom when a band came to set out the stone churn that they might have all they desired. Honey was often exchanged for baskets which the squaws were expert in weaving.

Homer King had four children:

(1) Hiram.
(2) Cynthia Ann.
(3) Henry.
(4) Charlotte.

Hiram married Frank Hoyt. They had two children, Addie and Frank.

Cynthia Ann married James H. Ford. They had six children, Lenora, Homer, Myrtie, Lenna, Nina and Ben.

Henry married Flora Bennett. They had three children, Jerry, Claude and Harry.

Charlotte died when twelve years old.

Theodore Clark

Theodore Clark married Delia Parish. They settled on the county line in 1840, but later moved to a farm one and one-half miles north and two miles east where they lived for many years. This is the Mr. Clark mentioned in connection with Dr. Woodworth. He had six children:

(1) Polly, married Austin Haywood. Their children were Delia and Adelbert.

(2) Alva Clark, no record.

(3) Charles, married Josie Russell. Their children were Alva, George, Dewitt and Charles.

(4) Elmina, married George Bonnell. Their children were Herbert, Henry, Theodore, George, William, Charles, Mary and Edna.

(5) Eunice, married Hersley Marston. Their children were Boyd, Pearl, Floy and Delia.

(6) Anson, married Laura Kinsinger. Their children were Freda, Fay and Howard.

Orange Barlow

Orange Barlow came from New York to Leslie in 1841. His wife, Elizabeth Whaley, and five children came with him. Their home was a very primitive log house with a blanket for a door and cloth for windows, keeping out, as Artemus Ward has said, "the coarsest of the cold." After paying for the moving Mr. Barlow had fifty cents left to tide over until he could get a start in his new home. He obtained his meat by hunting and earned flour for bread by day labor for his wealthier neighbors. Bears, wolves and deer were very plentiful. In-

dians were also numerous, but friendly. A squaw sometimes came to the door with a quarter of a deer to exchange for a bag of potatoes. At one time Mr. Barlow loaned his rifle to an Indian. Six months later the Indian returned the rifle. His squaw bride came with him. She had prepared a deer skin that was as beautiful as a piece of white silk in payment for the use of the rifle. Mr. Barlow thanked them and then returned the gift.

Orange Barlow had six children:

(1) Caroline Elizabeth, married Clark Harlow. Their children were Alfreda, Cynthia, Sarah, Lynn, Jasper, Laura, Samuel, Charles, Fred and Lloyd. Second husband was Enoch Haynes.

(2) James, married Martha Cornell. Mrs. Ann Wilson was his second wife. He had two children, Nettie and Lewis.

(3) Nathan, married Lizzie Humphrey. Their children were Edith, Everet, Brunson, Juliette, Oliver, Ula, Claude, Clifford, Florence, Chester and Iva.

(4) Abner, married Adella Cornell. No children.

(5) Louisa, married Philander Doxtader. They had one child, George Gaylord.

(5) Ann, married W. D. Longyear. Their children are Henry B. and Burton O.

(6) Juliette, died in childhood.

Hiram Austin

Hiram Austin came to Leslie in 1841. His wife was Mary Jared. They had seven children:

(1) Thomas, married Lucy Hull. They had eleven children.

(2) Hiram, married Phoebe Covert. No children.

(3) Henry, married Eleanor Lyon. Had four children.

(4) Albert, had three children.

(5) Janette, married Charles Barden. Two children.

(6) Lydia Ann, married George Loomis. Three children.

(The names of the children in the third generation were not obtained.)

Thomas Peach

Thomas Peach came to Leslie in 1840 and settled just east of town. He afterwards sold this place and bought a farm in Rives township. In 1842 he married Clarissa Harlow. They met with many interesting experiences in the new country. Indians were common. They were friendly, but Mrs. Peach did not trust them. When she saw one coming, she would go to the door and call "Thomas." After she had done this a few times at the visit of one old chief, he ever after when nearing the house would shout at the top of his voice "Thomas" before he approached the door. Pork and potatoes were traded for baskets. When they could spare no more, they hid the supplies in the cellar and asked the Indians to look into the empty barrel.

Thomas Peach had eight children:

(1) Alex, married Clara Downing. Their children were Ida, Cora and Ethel.

(2) George, died at 16.

(3) Seymour married Annette Bissell. Their children were Clara, Maurice and Alice.

(4) Mary, (5) Ella and (6) Frank died young.

(7) Cora, married Robert Walcott. Their children were Fern, Winifred, Emma and Warren.

(8) James, married Martha Walcott. They had one son, James D. Peach.

T. J. Blake

T. J. Blake and family moved from Jackson to Leslie in 1841. They first made their home in the log house owned by Elijah Woodworth but afterward moved into the country about one-half mile north of town. T. J. Blake was a cousin of Alba Blake, the first store-keeper in the village. There were eight children in the Blake family:

(1) Elizabeth, married Solomon Woodworth. Their children were Loretta, Esther, Sarah, Byron, Harriett, Herman and Burdette.

(2) Susan, married Martin Maxson. Their children were Flora, Harriet, Charles, Alta and Clarence.

(3) Alonzo, married Anna Albro. They had one daughter, Kittie.

(4) Christina, married Henry Maxson. Their children were William, Herbert, Edwin, Alonzo and Miriam.

(5) Melissa, married Alden Ferguson. Their children were Hugh, Miriam, Malcolm, Hoyt and Beatrice.

(6) William, married in the East and his family is unknown.

(7) Orson, died in childhood.

Truman Wilbur

Truman Wilbur located in Leslie in 1842. In

1841 he married Lucy A. Miner. Five children were born to them, three of whom died in infancy.

(1) Eunice, married Charles Huntley. Their children were John, Bertha and Frank.

(2) Lucy, married David Ward. Their children were George and Elmer.

Truman Wilbur married as his second wife Betsey Parrish, Oct. 8, 1848. Their children were:

(1) John.

(2) Lucinda.

(3) Sarah.

John married Mary Coy. They had six children. Two died in infancy. The others were Emma, Blanche, Homer and William.

Lucinda married Alexander McDougall. Their children were Nancy, Cora, Meda, Axie, Truman, Zoa, Agnes, Rinda, Theresa and Madge.

Sarah married Frank Clickner. Their children were Frankie, Josie and Wells.

Truman Wilbur married as his third wife Teresa Ward, Sept. 25, 1864. They had two children. One died in infancy.

(1) William, married Helen Campbell.

Isaac Huntoon

Isaac Huntoon was a native of Vermont and his wife was born in New Hampshire. They came to Michigan in 1841 and settled in Leslie township. Their journey was made via Lake Erie, Detroit, Ann Arbor and Jacksonburg. An ox-team was the means for conveyance of the family of nine children he brought with him. Huntoon lake and creek are named after this early settler. R. B. Huntoon,

who was so well known to all the children of the village by reason of the interest he always took in their material welfare at Christmas time, was the seventh son in this family and hence was always known as "Doctor", or, more familiarly, as "Uncle Doc." When Uncle Doc was buried, the school was closed in his honor and many beautiful flowers expressed the tribute and esteem of the children for their friend.

Isaac Huntoon had three wives. Their children were as follows:

(1) William, married Clara Stone. Their children were Isaac, Bertha, Josiah, James, Anna, Hattie, Lena, Ora and Thales.

(2) Thales, married three times. Last wife was Mary Olds. Their children were Elmer, Calvin, Loa, Floy, Willie, Clara and Norah.

(3) Luther, married Eliza Rolf. They had one adopted child.

(4) Richard, married Jane Jeffords. Their children were Myron and Grace. They adopted one son, Merton.

(5) Mary, married Hazard Watson. Their children were Mary, Louis and Arthur.

(6) Wallace, married Lydia Perine. Their children were Isaac, Alice and Mary.

(7) Philinda, married Henry Hodges. Their children were David, Romeo, Alice, Alvira, Minnie and Henry.

(8) George, married Lydia Lindsey. Their children were Layetta, Elmira, Kaleb, Rosa and George.

(9) Samuel, married Harriet Brown. Their children were Annette, Adelbert, Fanny, Wilson, Henry, and Augusta.

Abram Housel

Abram Housel was living in Leslie in 1842. He married Mary Jane Smith of Leslie township. He had one son, Herbert Eugene. Herbert Housel had one son, Abram, who died in 1893.

John Housel

John Housel was living in Leslie township as early as 1849. He lived on the farm now owned by Robert Wright.

Matthias Housel

Matthias Housel, brother of Abram and John, came to Ingham county in 1850. He lived on the farm now owned by Mrs. John Wilbur. He had six children:

(1) Mary Jane, married A. T. Brininger. Their children were Gertrude, Claudine and Clyde.

(2) Josephine, married J. T. DuBois. Their children were Milford, Leone, Lucy, Laura, Linn, Erma, Ernest, Lucile and Vern.

(3) Louisa, married Robert Wright. Their children were Lela, Rodney, Emory and Lloyd.

(4) James, married Nora Gue.

(5) Dora, married James Fowler. Their children were Emmet, Hally, Maggie and Belzora.

John B. Dunsha

John B. Dunsha and family came from Ohio to Michigan in 1843. They settled one mile north and one-half mile east of Leslie. Their children were:

(1) Daniel.
(2) Harriet.
(3) Clarissa.

Harriet died when 12.

Daniel married Charlotte Chapman in 1861. They had one child, Harriet.

Clarissa married Mr. Smith. They had one son, George, who lives at Wheeler, Michigan.

Harlow Norton

Harlow Norton and his wife, Susan Carson, came from Ohio to Leslie in 1843. He was able to purchase and pay for a farm southeast of town. The family met with the usual struggles of early settlers. To this was added the death of several little ones. Mr. Norton could never think of those early struggles without a feeling of sorrow. At one time when he was very homesick, a letter came from Cleveland, Ohio, without postage. His heart ached for the waiting message but it had to wait until he could burn the timber, scrape up the ashes and take them with his ox-team to the leachery where "black salts" were extracted before he had the cash for the postage that made the letter his own at last. To get flour it was necessary to go to Detroit or to Dexter, and several days were consumed on the trip, for the roads were mere trails along which an ox-team made slow progress.

Mrs. Norton was born Oct. 23, 1826, and died in Leslie June 24, 1896. Mr. Norton was born May 4, 1820, and died Feb. 18, 1904. Their childern were:

(1) Alma.
(2) Aurelia.

(3) Anson.
(4) Edmond.
(5) Alice.
(6) Josephine.
(7) Ernest.
(8) Anna.

Four of these children died in childhood.

Alma married George Taylor. Their children were Leon, Roy and Zack.

Alice married Wellie McMath. Their children were Ellena and Paul.

Josephine and Anna still reside in the old home in Leslie.

Erastus L. Lumbard

Erastus L. Lumbard and his wife, Eliza Armstrong, located in Leslie in 1843 on what is now the Eli Sherman farm. A. A. Lumbard, a son, telling of those early days said: "At one time my father and several of the neighbors went with five ox-teams to Eaton Rapids to mill. They had waited because of bad roads until there was only enough meal left in the house for one Johnny cake. My mother made the cake and portioned it out carefully that it might last until the men returned. She ate none herself but at the end of the second day we were obliged to go to bed hungry. At eight o'clock that night the men returned with the meal ground for the grist and my mother then made a Johnny cake, roused us from our sleep and fed us that our hunger might be satisfied. My father did the spinning. Many an hour I have seen him spin wool for stockings and cloth. The wool was carded at Eaton Rapids." In the winter when there was no other food for the

stock, Mr. Lumbard felled elm and basswood trees for the cattle to browse upon.

Erastus Lumbard had eleven children:

(1) William.

(2) A. A. Lumbard, married Sarah Woodworth. No children.

(3) George, married Loretta Gowers. Their children were Maude and Mabelle.

(4) Orvil, married Lizzie Miles. Their children were Benjamin and Edith.

(5) Elizabeth, married Samuel Marston. Their children were Delilah and Ortenah.

(6) Julia.

(7) Melvina, married Joseph Andrews. No children.

Harry Backus

Harry Backus came to Leslie on a visit from Pike, Wyoming Co., N. Y., in the fall of 1844. He became homesick and returned to New York. After a year he returned for another visit and this time was convinced that the "New West" was the place for young men with much brawn and little money. He therefore purchased 50 acres of timber land on Section 9 at $1.25 per acre, cleared a spot for a home and returned to New York for his bride, Abigail Palmer, whom he brought to Michigan in 1850. He journeyed via Lake Erie by steamboat to Detroit, then by rail to Jackson where he hired R. H. Davis to move his goods to his new home in Leslie township.

They knew what it meant to face the difficulties incident to pioneer life, but persevered with courage and succeeded very well. Later he purchased forty acres from Freeman Shaver and made that his home.

At his death in October, 1899, he left the place to his eldest son, Perry P. Backus, who still resides on the same. Harry Backus was no sportsman. Thus the deer that occasionally came to the spring on his farm called the "Deer Lick" were not disturbed. In his family there were six children. Three died in childhood.

(1) Perry, married Fanny E. Standley. They had one child, Romanda A.

(2) Helen, married Philo E. Lacy. No children.

(3) Alice, married Edward Abrams. No children.

The present home of Helen and Alice stands on the site of the first log home of Harry Backus.

Arnold Walker

Arnold Walker came from Seneca Co., N. Y., to Leslie in 1844, when about nineteen years of age.

During the early years of his residence he had much to do with the Indians. They frequently came to his house to beg for food, especially during the maple sugar season. Mrs. Walker frequently gave them sugar in the form of wax. A clean chip was the dish used and many an "Ugh! heap good!" showed their delight in the toothsome sweet. Although Mr. Walker had been denied by circumstances much book education in his youth, by sheer force of innate worth he became a leader in the township affairs and in the building up of the village of Leslie. He was captain of the military company whose headquarters were at Mason. This company was called the Curtenius Guards and won many prizes in state contests. He helped organize the First National Bank of Leslie, was active for many years in church

work, was prominent as a politician, and served a term in the state Legislature. He loaned a great deal of money for his friends in the East to the progressive farmers of Ingham county and thus hastened the development of the country. He was one of those rare souls who are constantly thinking of others and their welfare and did not spare himself.

Arnold Walker married Matilda Chandler of Ingham county. There were ten children born to them, five of whom died in childhood. The five who grew up and married were:

(1) Manley.
(2) Mary.
(3) Claude.
(4) Mattie.
(5) John.

Manley married Etta Gardner. They had two children, Arnold and Lewis.

Mary married George Norton. Their surviving children were Ada and Lee.

Claude married Helen Allen. They had one daughter, Kate.

Mattie married F. C. Woodworth. Their children were Vernor, Walker and Harry.

John married Georgia Blair. They had one son, Hugh.

Lyman Miner

Lyman Miner came to Leslie from New York some time before 1844. His wife was Lydia E. Wilbur. Seven children were born to them:

(1) Edward.
(2) Asa.
(3) Alonzo.

(4) Joseph.
(5) Levi.
(6) Rosina.
(7) Lillian.

Edward had three children, Eva, Claude and Burl.

Levi married Emma Ashby. Their children were Charles, May, Grace and Flora.

Rosina married Dewitt Meach. Their children were Emma, Eddie and Bertha.

Lillian married Herbert Howe. Their children were Ora, Verne, Claude, Edward, Charles, Clarence, Clyde and Matie.

Alonzo never married.

James Harkness

James Harkness was born in Orange county, N. Y., He married Harriet Archer in 1833. In 1844 they came to Henrietta, Jackson county. In 1845 they bought a farm on Section 12 in Leslie township. Here they endured the discomforts of early pioneer life, raised a family, and saw, before their death, a thriving, happy land. In those early days Indians and wild animals were common visitors. One day one of their neighbors, Aunt Betsy Robinson, heard a pig squeal. Looking out she saw a huge black bear inside the low rail pen. She ran out with her rolling pin in her hand and hit the bear on the nose and finally drove him out of the pen.

James Harkness had seven children:

(1) Emeline, married Henry Van Deusen, of Jackson. Their children were Adelbert and William.

(2) Rescome, was twice married. His first wife was Mary Dewey. She had one child, Cora. His

second wife was Eliza Woodland who had three children, Walter, Earle and Nellie.

(3) Hannah, married Sawyer Lockwood. Their children were Alice and Nettie.

(4) Caroline, married Hugh Blakely. No children.

(5) Orange, married Adelia Fields. Their children were Wesley, Ethel, Flossie, Rupert, Dayton and Bessie.

(6) Almina, died in infancy.

(7) James, married Jane Overacre. Their children were Blanche, Guy and Irene.

Dr. J. D. Woodworth

Dr. J. D. Woodworth and his wife, Mary Orcutt Woodworth, located in Leslie about 1850. Together they endured the many hardships incident to pioneer life. The doctor made his professional calls on horseback over the deer-paths or Indian trails that in many cases were called roads. Many nights he would get lost and wander around until daybreak. In telling of his first professional call the Doctor said: "I never felt quite so important in my life. The call was from a family named Clark who lived east of town. After I diagnosed the case of the boy who was ill I left medicine and directions for its use. I then picked up my saddlebags and started to go when the father of the boy said: 'Well, Doc., don't you think such and such a thing would be good for the boy?' I picked up the saddlebags and the medicine and said: 'I see you know more about the case than I do, so you do not need my services.' Mr. Clark began to laugh and said: 'Well,

young man, that is exactly what I wanted you to say· I wanted to know if you were going to let me dictate to you.' " The Doctor took the case and the boy recovered. As long as he was able to work he treated the Clark family. He would often laugh over his early experiences and say: "Those were certainly happy days. Would that I could live them over again."

Dr. Woodworth was a graduate of Rush Medical College and during his lifetime held many offices of trust with credit to himself and honor to the community. His greatest blessing through those early days was the loving sympathy and care of his wife who is still living. He died in November, 1910. They had five children:

(1) Mary.
(2) Zack.
(3) Ward.
(4) Blanche.
(5) George.

Mary married John F. Young. Their children were Fanny and Kate.

Zack married Luella Woodworth. Their children were Phil and Lottie.

Ward married Achsah Howard. Their children were Pearl, Mary, James, John, Lucille and Florence.

Edward Variell

Edward Variell was born in St. Thomas, Canada, in 1821. He married Jane Searls in 1845. They immediately began housekeeping on the Variell homestead on Section 1, Leslie township, which is now owned by Jack Barber. Their children were:

(1) Louisa.
(2) Daniel.
(3) Stephen.

Louisa married H. C. Freeland. Their children were Orin, Dudley and Maude.

Daniel married Ada Rutty. Their children were Inez, Floy, Blanche, Walter, Stephen, Alda and Minniebelle.

Stephen married Cynthia Rutty. Their children were Charles, Orville and Loa.

Edward Variell enlisted in Company G., 12th Michigan Infantry and died at Niles, Mich., on Feb. 28, 1862. He was the first soldier from Leslie township to be brought home to be buried.

John Craddock

John Craddock and his wife, Mary A. Craddock, settled in Leslie in 1850. To them were born seven children:

(1) Mary, married Lorenzo Whitney. Their children were Frank, Charles, Homer, Jennie and May.

(2) John, married Martha Hulling. Their children were John and Mabel.

(3) Charles, no record.

(4) Eliza, married S. E. Miner. Their children were Olga, Exer, Roy, Lurania and Anson.

(5) Sarah, married John Wilkie. Their children were Daisy and Bertha.

(6) Emeline, no record.

(7) Alfred, married Elizabeth Hill. Their children were Maude, Edward and John.

Early Pioneer Home Life

EARLY PIONEER HOME LIFE

It is hard for the present generation, living in a country which has every indication of having been inhabited for a long period of time, to realize that this township was a virgin wilderness at as late a date as 1835, or less than eighty years ago. The country was covered with a dense primeval forest where the trees often lay in matted windrows as the result of a cyclonic storm. The low-lands were swampy for one-half of the year. Into this wilderness came the early pioneers, driving their kine to the chosen section of land! The first urgent necessity was to clear the land for tame grasses and grains to grow. See them strain every effort to beat back the surrounding forest. The circle of cleared land is forced back. Forest giants are girdled, felled, hacked into mammoth logs, piled up and burned. Predatory birds and animals are killed. Many a cornfield was destroyed by the wild pigeons and crows. Squirrels were shot by thousands to save the first acres of wheat. Deer were driven from the fields of corn and hay. Skunks, martins, weasles, and their ilk, depleted the chicken flock by nightly raids. Even the pigs were lugged off by wandering bears. Everything seemed to conspire to prevent the settlement and subjugation of the country. Water supplies were often polluted and typhoid was prevalent. The swarming pools furnished mosquitoes that not only made life miserable for at least seven months in the year, but also caused the dreaded fever and ague that reduced the victim from a strong man to a mere shell by its insidious attacks, recurring at regular intervals of time, long after the first infection.

Yet under all this stress and strain the primeval idea of a home drove the indomitable settlers to daily hard work. The logs were hewn and notched and drawn up into a pile. Then came a general invitation to the country side for a "raising." The sturdy men came, their wives and children, and even the crippled, to the event, by twos and threes, through the forest paths and along the poor roads. When a sufficient number had assembled, the chosen leader directed the strongest men to lay the foundation logs in place. One by one the walls were extended upward to the requisite height, the plates placed and the rafters hoisted for the roof. A rousing feast closed the work in the middle of the afternoon and ere dusk had fallen every one was on his way home. The roof was made from shakes rived from logs, and the cracks between the logs were chinked with moss and then plastered. The floor was in most cases at first only the dirt. Later it was covered with sawed plank. A mud and stick chimney at the end led from the yawning fireplace of the log cabin. The attic was reached by a pole ladder from one corner of the kitchen. Ofttimes the under side of the shake roof was filled with thorn brush twigs and on each thorn was stuck a dried pigeon breast as store for winter consumption. Doors and windows were blankets or crude heavy shutters. Some cabins had two rooms. Many had only one. The beds were in one corner, the table in the middle, and the fireplace at the other end.

The housewife labored diligently to provide food and clothing for her husband and children. Cooking was done by the fireplace. Food that could be cooked in a kettle was hung by a crane over the

flames. Bread was baked in a "Dutch oven" which was made of tin and was set in front of the fire. Johnny cake and biscuit were baked in iron skillets over coals which were drawn out on the hearth. The skillets stood on legs five inches long which raised them above the coals and thus prevented the burning of the cakes or biscuit. Stoves did not come into use around Leslie until about 1850. Mush of Indian corn mixed with milk was a favorite article of diet. The common use of fresh meat was rare. Such meat as was left over from the fall surplus at killing time was salted or corned for future use.

Spinning and weaving were common occupations. Mrs. Palmyra Hahn says: "I well remember a plaid dress my mother spun and wove for me. The wool was picked and then taken to Eaton Rapids to be carded."

As a rule the days were full of work for all. Sometimes a family would suddenly decide to give a party in the evening. A messenger went from house to house giving the invitations. Often the time was so short that a regular supper could not be prepared, but when other food was not available the toothsome pancake or corn meal mush was served. Old-time games were played or the ever-ready fiddler tuned up his ancient instrument and a lively dance followed. Square dances were the rule. Many times distant guests were entertained over night.

Husking bees were held at various farms during the fall. After an evening of strenuous work at which wit and repartee were gaily exchanged, and where there was much good-natured bantering among the men, a dance closed the evening's fun.

Pumpkin pie and sometimes cider were served as refreshments.

Sometimes two or three families would crowd into one sleigh and go to spend the evening with a neighbor. The children spent the time popping corn while the older people sat and scraped slices of ruta bagas and told stories. It was usually midnight before they reached home with the slow-plodding ox-team.

Skating parties were often held on the ponds. A huge bonfire was the rallying center. Races between rival skaters were common and sometimes a rude form of a cotillion would be gone through by the assembled merry-makers.

THE FIRST CELEBRATION OF THE FOURTH OF JULY IN LESLIE

The Fourth of July was first celebrated in Leslie about 1848. The exercises of the day took place in an opening in the woods near where the Adventist Church now stands. In this glade a rude stage was erected and long tables built for the feast. A parade, composed of nearly all of the men, women and children of the town, started from the old hotel where the Murphy store now stands. Each state was represented by a lady in characteristic attire. A flag was proudly carried at the head of the procession and a drum corps furnished the music. An anvil was fired for the "big noise." After the glade was reached a program of patriotic songs, addresses and recitations was given. Then came the feast. A large roast pig graced the center of the table. It was flanked with all sorts of game—turkey, duck,

venison, quail, and partridge, were in great abundance. A bowery dance was held in the evening. Somewhat in contrast to the spirit of these later days, these hardy pioneers rejoiced to be able to participate in the celebration of the natal day of our Nation.

A List of the Resident Taxpayers of the Township of Leslie for 1844 Whose Family Records were not Obtained

Asher Robinson, Mose Curtis, George Higdon, John Barry, Clark Harlow, L. G. Sanders, William Page, Enoch Hare, Thomas Clossen, A. C. Harlow, Wheaton Sanders, William Jones, William W. Dewey, Chauncy Smith, Sally Miles, Seneca Hale, Joshua Whitney, Anthony Ingalls, Ephraim Wortman, Whitman Albro, Peter Ward, Stephen Weeks, Elizabeth Gardner, Samuel T. Rice, Henry Meeker, Valorous Meeker, H. L. Freeman, Henry Fiske, J. R. Cowden, George Huntoon, Barna Filkins, Jacob Straight, Calvin Straight, Hiram Hodges, John Husel, William Huntoon, Roxalena Dewey, John Hale, Denzil P. Rice, Isaac Demick, Alba Blake, Jared Reynolds, Hiram Austin, Flavel Butler, Henry Freeman, James McCrary, Simeon Polar, Thomas Annis, Daniel Jefford, Patrick Brown, Frederick Clark, William Barden, D. Wright, W. Wright, Benjamin Norton, Daniel Marston, Lyman C. Miner and W. D. Landfair.

Schools and Churches

SCHOOLS OF LESLIE

On Aug. 12, 1837, at a meeting of the school inspectors of the old township of Aurelius, the south half of Township 1 North, Range 1 West, was set off and organized as School District No. 1. The north half of the same township was organized as District No. 2 at the same date. Both districts have been altered at various times since.

The first schoolhouse in the township was built in Leslie village in the fall of 1837. It was a frame building and was located near the present site of the Congregational Church. It is now used as a part of a carriage house by J. R. Baggerly. Stillman Rice, a brother of Leonard Rice, was the first teacher. The second teacher was Mrs. Butler, a sister of Mrs. E. K. Grout. Miss Messenger was the next teacher after Mrs. Butler. In 1843 Elizabeth Bugbee taught in District No. 1 and Elizabeth Godfrey in No. 4. The latter district was formed in 1842 in the southwest part of the township.

The first schoolhouse in the village served for many years both for schools and religious meetings. One old resident says: "I remember the schoolhouse distinctly. We spent many exciting afternoons in it, choosing sides for a spelling-down contest. There was a play-house too, built in the woods just west of Mr. Tuttle's residence. There the largest boy or girl was elected father or mother and they had a busy time keeping order in their unruly family." In time the first building gave way to a brick structure which is now used as a chapel by the Congregational Church.

Shortly after the Civil War when the town was

animated by the return of those engaged so long in that deadly strife, there arose an urgent demand for a better school building and more teachers. An acre of ground for the new school building was given by W. J. T. Armstrong on Woodworth street. The contract for building the central part of the present building which stands on the Armstrong site was awarded in 1867 to Woodhouse & Rice, for something over $10,000. The building was finished in 1868. Sept. 9, 1871, this district was organized as a Union Graded School District and has continued so ever since. A wing on the south side was added in 1873 and one on the north side in 1907. The present building has nine rooms and is in excellent repair. The various grade rooms are adorned with beautiful pictures, the gifts of successive classes. The laboratory is one of the most complete in the county and the library of 1900 volumes is not surpassed by that of any similar school in the state. In 1912, the lots at the south side of the Armstrong site were purchased for a playground and for agricultural extension work.

At the death of C. W. Tufts in 1906, he made provision in his will for establishing a township high-school in Leslie township but the bequest never materialized. His library, however, forms the basis of the handsome collection of books mentioned above.

Since the erection of the present building, the following men have served as superintendents of the Leslie school: Wellington Carleton, 1868-1869; Thomas C. Taylor, 1869-1870; Elmer D. North, 1870-1871; Charles A. Cook, 1871-1879; Charles K. Perrine, 1879-1880; Henry C. Rankin, 1880-1884; Charles H. Chase, 1884-1886; Alton D. DeWitt,

1886-1888; Charles E. Bird, 1888-1894; Abraham Knechtel, 1894-1899; Allen F. Rockwell, 1899-1901; Henry C. Rankin, 1901-1902; Clarence Vliet, 1902-1913.

The teaching force at the present time is as follows: Science, Clarence Vliet; English and History, Florence Galusha; Language, Florence Fisher; Mathematics, Adelaide Cushing; Grades 7 and 8, Miss Grace Fisher; Grades 5 and 6, Miss Clara Brown; Grades 3 and 4, Miss Lillian Coe; Grades 1 and 2, Miss Verna Downs; Kindergarten, Miss Lucile Davis. Miss Downs also has charge of the music and drawing. The present enrollment is 265.

The first class to graduate from the high school was that of 1873, consisting of three members. Since that time there have been thirty-five classes with two hundred and seventy-six members who have graduated. The 1914 class numbers seventeen. Ten of these classes with a membership of one hundred and ten have graduated under Mr. Vliet, the present superintendent. Brief sketches of some of the graduates who have become famous in the world will be found under their proper heading. At the present time the high school is on the "Approved List" of the University of Michigan, and its graduates are admitted to the University and all the colleges of the state without examination.

It is fitting that tribute should be paid to two men at least who did yeoman service for the Leslie school in its early history. S. O. Russell, that sturdy pioneer, was very active in the struggle to build the new building. With his own hands he set out the avenue of maples that leads up to the building from the street. Professor C. A. Cook on the teaching side

first established a high standard of scholarship among the student body and urged young men to greater effort and a wider sphere in life. To both of these men the Leslie school is greatly indebted.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The economy of the Methodist Church in its organization is peculiarly adapted to pioneer work. Hence we find as early as 1830 that Eastern Michigan had been assigned to the supervision of North Ohio Conference, Detroit District, and Ann Arbor Circuit. Leslie received a small share of the work done in this large circuit.

In June, 1837, the First Methodist Society of Leslie was organized with thirteen members, viz.; Henry Meeker and wife, Benjamin Davis and wife, Dr. Valorous Meeker and wife, S. O. Russell and wife, James Royston and wife, Benjamin Meeker and wife, and Denzil P. Rice. S. O. Russell was the first class leader. Washington Jackson and Brother Sullivan served as pastors. At this time the name of the circuit was changed to Ingham and the Conference to Ingham. The meetings were first held at the residence of Benjamin Davis one mile west of the village. Afterwards they were held in the schoolhouse. In 1838 the following members were added to the church: Josiah Rice, Laura Rice, Flavel J. Butler, Florella Butler, Richard Davis, Susan Caton, Washington Scovil, Ephraim Wortman, Anna Wortman, Susan Kirby, Laura A. Rice, Alba Blake, Catherine Blake, Nancy Carson, Laura Filkins, Louis A. Ravelin, Wm. Vredenburg, Betsey Vredenburg, Mary J. Carson, John Hawkins, Nancy Hawkins, Samuel Vredenburg, Henry D. Rice, Clarissa Dunsha,

Van Ransaler Polar, Bathsheba Rice, John Parish and Edna Rice.

About 1848 the first society in Bunker Hill on Felt Plains was organized and attached to Leslie. Ingham Circuit at this time embraced Leslie, Mason, Okemos, Bunker Hill, Dansville, Stockbridge and some schoolhouse appointments. A. L. Crittenden, pastor, lived in Mason where the circuit owned a parsonage. He remained two years and preached once in two weeks at each of the places mentioned above. Hiram Law was presiding elder.

In 1856 a Union church was built in which both Baptists and Methodists worshipped until 1868. Then the Methodists rented a hall until they built a church of their own which was completed in 1870. In 1866 Rev. Burton S. Mills, a local preacher from Lansing, was employed by Rev. C. C. Olds, Presiding Elder, to supply the charge. He was the first resident pastor in this church which consisted at that time of Leslie, Felt Plains, and a schoolhouse appointment. In 1867 a great revival was held and one hundred new members joined the church. Pastor Mills remained two years and was greatly beloved. The pastors since that time have been as follows:

1869, A. A. Rolfe; 1872, H. D. Jordan; 1873, J. Gulick; 1876, N. L. Brockway; 1878, W. J. Swift; 1880, Louis De Lamatar; 1883, Charles A. Jacokes; 1885, Geo. W. Tuthill; 1887, James Webster; 1892, Lewis M. Edmonds; 1894, Cyrus A. Varnum: 1897, Albert Smith; 1899, Warren W. Lamport; 1907, R. Bert Cilley.

As auxiliaries to the church work there are at present a Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, Home Missionary Society, two children missionary

societies and an Epworth League. The Sunday School has an average attendance of 89 and E. C. Chapman is superintendent. The membership of the church is 200.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The First Baptist Church of Leslie was organized on April 12, 1839, with the following members:

Mahlon Covert, Sally Covert, Lewis Reynolds, Laura Reynolds, Martha J. Ives, Mariah Hazleton, Harriet Barden, and Elijah K. Grout.

Calvin Straight and wife united with the church May 11, 1839, and on the same date application was made for admission to the River Raisin Baptist Association. Elijah Grout was ordained as a minister Feb. 16, 1841, and became the first pastor of the church. He continued as pastor until 1847. The pastors since have been as follows:

1847, F. Freeman; 1849, David Hendee; 1852, H. B. Fuller; 1861, Elijah K. Grout; 1866, Rev. Vroman; 1867, John Dunham; 1868, John B. Kemp; 1870, W. C. Gunn; 1871, W. C. Archer, W. Gregory; 1872, H. C. Gallup; 1877, H. S. Bower; 1879, John Heritage; 1883, A. M. Buck; 1885, J. W. Ainsworth; 1887, W. H. Mills; 1890, F. M. Iams; 1891, H. A. McConnell; 1894, H. K. Wilbur; 1897, J. C. Robillard; 1899, R. H. Monroe; 1903, John O. Vince; 1907, M. J. Holtsclaw; 1909, Leslie Bower; 1910, W. J. Copsey. Rev. McConnell supplies the pulpit at present.

The early meetings of the church were held in the schoolhouse. In 1856 it was voted to make an effort to build a meeting-house and a frame structure was commenced which was completed two years later.

William Taylor had the contract for the building of the church. He was assisted by Lorenzo Whitney, Mr. Hoag and others. This building was afterwards veneered with brick in 1887 and is the present church edifice. In 1871 a parsonage on Race street was constructed at a cost of $2000. During the pastorate of Rev. Vince a pipe organ was installed in the church. The present church membership is 140. The Sunday School has an average attendance of 89 and A. C. Lake is the superintendent.

At the time of the building of the Baptist Church, Mrs. Romina Haynes and Mrs. P. Rolfe, organized a Ladies' Sewing Society to assist in furnishing the church. There were 13 charter members: Mrs. Abbie Haynes, Henriette Taylor, Mary Woodworth, Lucinda Rolfe, Romina Haynes, Sally Ann Sitts, Susan Robinson, Emily Gibbs, Idris Grout, Mary Russell, Celia Adams, Ellen Adams, and Catherine Weeks. They employed the time at their meetings in sewing, knitting, and embroidery. They sewed for individuals, bought material for garments, and sold them at the stores. They also bought calico pieces and made quilts. In time the society was able to buy the sash and glass for the windows in the new church which they also painted. On November 26 they appointed a committee to select and purchase the articles which were required for the furnishing of the edifice.

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

The Free Will Baptist Church was organized in 1873 with about 35 members. The organization of the church was due principally to the Rev. Wil-

liam Gray. A frame chapel was built in the summer of 1874. It was situated near the sight of the first schoolhouse on the corner of Bellevue and Armstrong streets.

The pastors of the church were:

William Gray, J. S. Manning, Milo Coldron, J. F. Bolles, F. R. Randall, C. S. Bisby and Rev. Van Warmer in the order named. In 1880 the church had a membership of 80. The society was disbanded in 1890 and the building sold to Mr. Bickhart who moved it to Mill street where it was later destroyed by fire.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A Congregational Church was organized in the village of Leslie with eight members on Feb. 12, 1843, by Rev. Marcus Harrison, pastor of the church in Jackson. The members were: Henry Fiske and wife, William Huntoon and wife, Benjamin Bingman and wife, Kendrick Leach and wife and Elizabeth Bugbee. Meetings were held once a month by Mr. Harrison and Rev. Thomas E. Emerson for eight months. At the end of this time the organization was dissolved.

In 1861 the Rev. Edwin W. Shaw, a member of the Southern Michigan Association, visited Leslie. He moved here with his family in October, 1861, and labored until April, 1865. On April 9, 1865, the following persons constituted the First Congregational Church of Leslie: Mrs. Sarah Tufts, Mrs. Elizabeth Barlow, Rev. Edwin W. Shaw, Mrs. Mary Wheaton, William F. Huntoon, Mrs. Clarissa Huntoon, Mrs. Amanda Shaw, Mrs. Phoebe Perrine, Mrs. Mary Woodworth, Nelson B. Slocum, Edward M. Craig and

Mrs. Agnes Slocum. Rev. Thomas Jones of Olivet and Rev. Marshall Tingley of Sioux City, Iowa, assisted at the organization. William F. Huntoon was chosen deacon and E. W. Shaw church clerk. The organization took place in the schoolhouse at Leslie. In October, 1868, the old brick schoolhouse was purchased by the society and converted into a chapel. It was dedicated Jan. 3, 1869, by Rev. W. B. Williams of Charlotte and is still in use as a part of the church property. In 1869 Mr. Shaw resigned the pastorate and Rev. J. W. Allen began his labors which continued until 1875. In 1869 a parsonage was purchased for the use of the pastor of the church and a permanent organization was effected in August of the same year. The present church edifice was dedicated in 1884. Great credit should be given Rev. W. C. Allen who was pastor at that time for urging the work to completion. The pastors since the establishment of the church have been as follows:

1869, J. W. Allen; 1875, William Mulder; 1878, John Visscher; 1879, A. E. Ross; 1881, James L. Watts; 1882, Rev. Wilkinson, J. M. Smith; 1883, W. C. Allen; 1887, F. M. Coddington; 1890, F. W. Bush; 1892, C. M. Arthur; 1894, J. J. Stealey; 1896, John Claflin; 1908, W. C. Allen.

The present membership of the church is 78. The Sunday School has an average attendance of 50. J. R. Baggerly is the superintendent.

THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

The Seventh Day Adventist Church was organized in 1877 with the following charter members:

Wm. B. Irwin, Mary Irwin, A. J. Richmond, Nellie Richmond, Wm. Barden, Harriet Barden, Martha Pasco, Betsey Shaw, Elizabeth Page, Charlotte Chapman, Edson Hazelton, Wm. J. Stone and Lucy Stone. The present church building was built in 1883. The present church membership is 14.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Mary's Catholic Church of Leslie was established in 1882 by Rev. Fr. Buysse of Jackson. Meetings were held in Union Hall until the church was completed. At first there were about thirty regular communicants but owing to death and removals this has been reduced to twenty-one at the present time.



Leslie about 1870.

Leslie Boys Worthy
of Special Mention

LESLIE BOYS WORTHY OF SPECIAL MENTION

Homer Reed

Homer Reed, son of Thomas Hitchcock Reed and Mary Wilcox Reed, was born in Rives township, August 26, 1847. In 1854 his father moved to Leslie and engaged in business with H. T. Allen and later with R. L. Covert until his death in 1866.

The early education of Homer Reed was under the guidance of James Blackmore in the old brick district schoolhouse of Leslie. Of Mr. Blackmore and his early school life Mr. Reed says: "The figure of James Blackmore stands out prominently as a teacher well equipped to meet the rough conditions encountered in the public school of that day where in one room a teacher was obliged to teach seventy-five pupils in all branches from A B C to algebra. Mrs. William Taylor was also one of my teachers in the brick schoolhouse. She was a most gifted and accomplished instructor who made study a labor of love."

Mr. Reed graduated from the University of Michigan in 1872. In 1873 he located in Kansas City where he still resides. He studied and practiced law for awhile and later adopted real estate loaning as a business which he still prosecutes under the name of the "Homer Reed Investment Company." He was postmaster of Kansas City under Cleveland. He was a charter member of the Humane society, is somewhat of a writer on economics and sociology, and is an enthusiast on peony culture, having over 200 varieties—the finest collection in the middle west.

In 1879 Mr. Reed married Laura Coates, daughter

of one of the prominent pioneer families of Kansas City. They have six children.

Norman W. Haire

Norman W. Haire was born in Jackson county, Mich., Feb. 24, 1855. He obtained his early education at the Annis district school, the Leslie high school, and the Ann Arbor high school where he graduated in June, 1876. He graduated from the University of Michigan with the degree of A. B. in 1880, and with the degree of LL.B. in 1885. He was admitted to the bar in 1885, settled at Rockland, Mich., was elected prosecuting attorney, 1886, and held the office until 1891 when he was appointed by Governor Winans as judge of the new 32d Circuit. In the fall of 1892 he was elected to fill out the term and was re-elected in 1893 and 1899 and again in 1905 without opposition. Soon after his election in 1905 he resigned to take charge as General Manager of the Bigelow Mines—Osceola, Tamarack, Isle Royal, Ahmeek—and the Lake Superior Smelting Co. In 1909 he resigned from this position since which time he has been manager of mines in Utah and New Mexico although continuing to reside in Hancock, Michigan.

Judge Haire was married July 3, 1880, to Miss Lydia Moore of Leslie. They have two children.

Charles W. Tufts

Charles W. Tufts was born in 1856. He was the son of George A. Tufts and Sarah Pettys. He graduated from the Leslie high school in 1876 and entered the University of Michigan in the same year, graduating in 1880 with the degrees of A. B. and

M. A. He began teaching at once in Sheboygan, Wis., and afterwards became principal of the Kalamazoo high school and of the township high school at Ottawa, Ill. He remained in Ottawa until 1887 when he went to Germany and studied at Berlin and Leipsic. On his return to this country he located in Grand Rapids and, in company with a classmate, opened a law and real estate office. While there he built two hundred dwelling houses and the apartment house known as the Wellington. In 1901 he removed to Detroit and formed a partnership with W. W. Hannan, under the firm name of Hannan & Tufts. This firm built the Madison, Pasadena and other well-known apartment houses in that city. At the dissolution of this partnership Mr. Tufts undertook the building of the finest structure he had ever planned, The Charlevoix, in Detroit, and had made plans for erecting a yet larger building in Brooklyn. He died in 1906 after a short illness, from uraemic poisoning.

Mr. Tufts was married Sept. 18, 1877, to Gertrude Clapp. He had one adopted daughter, Lura Brown.

Mr. Tufts was greatly interested in the village of Leslie. For several years he wrote a weekly letter to the Local-Republican in which there was much philosophy of life and evidence of the cultural privileges he had enjoyed in his University and foreign study. For several years he gave the graduating classes beautiful class pins. He also gave town improvement prizes, prizes for the final debates in the Lyceum, and prizes for personal hygiene in the grades. At his death his will made provision for the founding and support of a township high school in Leslie township. His library and pictures

were to go to this school. This library at present forms the basis of the excellent library in the public school. It is said that when a child, he visited the only library in Leslie, consisting of a few worn books in Burchard's store. The need of a library for the community use was so evident to him that he exclaimed: "Leslie shall have a library when I am a man if I buy it myself!" The provision in his will was the evident outgrowth of the childish resolve.

Had Charles W. Tufts lived, the bequest in his will of $10,000 in cash and $1000 a year for twenty years for the proposed township high school would have been but a modest beginning for the many helpful plans he had in mind for his native place. That the proposed school has not been built because, in the final settlement of the estate, its shrunken values would not permit the fulfillment of the bequest is simply indicative that no one could direct his intricate affairs so well as the master himself. Had he lived, all his plans and more would have been realized.

Horace H. Rackham

Horace H. Rackham was born in Harrison township, Macomb Co., Michigan, on June 27, 1858. He is the son of Simon Rackham and Ann Rackham. His parents became residents of Leslie township in 1874. As a boy Mr. Rackham attended the district school taught by Joseph Compton, and entered the Leslie high school in 1877. At this time Prof. C. A. Cook was principal and Norman W. Haire his assistant. He graduated from the high school in 1878 and through the advice of Professor Cook and Mr. Haire decided to study law. He accordingly entered

the office of a practicing attorney in Detroit and on June 5, 1884, was admitted to the bar in the Wayne County Circuit Court, and on Nov. 18, 1898, to the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Since his admission to the bar Mr. Rackham has led a busy professional life. He has never entered into politics.

In 1903 Mr. Rackham assisted in the formation of the Ford Motor Company of Detroit and has shared in the prosperity of all connected with that great automobile concern. Although at the present time he has ceased the active practice of his profession, his many business interests require a large share of his time.

On Nov. 11, 1886, Mr. Rackham was married to Mary A. Horton, of Fenton, Mich. They have no children.

Edward Boyle

Edward Boyle was born in Leslie March 5, 1863. He graduated from the Leslie high school in 1883. He spent one year at Olivet College and four years at Ann Arbor where he graduated with the degree of A. B. in 1888. After graduation he taught in Michigan City, Ind., for five years as principal of the high school, and then as superintendent of the city schools for six years. He then studied law in the Kent College of law in Chicago and graduated in 1893. Since that time he has been a member of the law firm of Boyle, Mott & Haight, and Secretary and Treasurer of the firm of Abraham Baldwin. Mr. Boyle is also Commissioner and Chairman of a Drainage and Levee District in Illinois, comprising about

10,000 acres which has recently been brought under cultivation.

Arthur J. Tuttle

Arthur J. Tuttle was born in Leslie township Nov. 8, 1868. His grandfather, John J. Tuttle, was one of the pioneers of Leslie. He graduated from the Leslie high school in 1888, and in 1892 from the literary department of the University of Michigan with the degree of A. B. In 1895 he graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan with the degree of LL. B. In 1896 he commenced to practice law in Leslie and in 1898 was elected prosecuting attorney of Ingham County. Two years later he established a law office in Lansing under the firm name of Tuttle, McArthur & Dunnebeck. He has served two terms as state senator, from 1906-10. In 1911 he was appointed U. S. District Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan and in August, 1912, was appointed District Judge for the same district, which office he now holds.

Judge Tuttle was married March 11, 1903, to Jessie B. Stewart who died August 24, 1912. He has two daughters, Ruth and Esther.

Business Interests

EARLY BUSINESS INTERESTS OF LESLIE

Stave Factory

The stave factory of A. J. Bailey & Son was established in 1868, and did a thriving business for many years. A cooperage was also owned and operated by the same firm. About 2,000,000 staves were manufactured annually. The yard and mill were opposite the Michigan Central depot. This firm went out of business in 1895.

Tannery

Andrew and Emory Hahn established a tannery soon after their arrival in 1860 and continued in business for several years. This tannery was near the present home of Mr. Hocking.

Mills

Two saw-mills were built upon Huntoon creek in early times. The one was called the Upper Mill and was built by Woodworth, Dwight & Co., in the summer of 1836. It was about twenty rods east of Bailey's stave mill. The other called the Lower Mill was owned by Henry Meeker and was on Mill street. It was later run by Jonathan Shaw and Rice Bros., but was finally dismantled. About 1850 S. O. Russell erected a steam mill at the corner of Bellevue and Spring streets, which was operated for eight years. In 1867 a saw-mill was built by E. Oldman and L. G. Becker, on the east side of Huntoon Creek east of the M. E. Church. It was burned after running for ten years, but was rebuilt by Dean Tylor.

The first grist mill had about the same location as the Meeker saw-mill. It was built in 1838 by David

Dwight. William Spears completed the mill and put it in running order. Dell Haines was the next owner. At the time it was burned it was owned by Henry Hawley.

The second grist mill was situated on the east side of the railroad on Mill street just beyond the Meeker Mill location. It was built by John Burchard in 1870 and is now used as a storage house.

The third grist mill was situated on the corner of Race and Church streets. A popular subscription was raised by the people of the town and the mill was built by Wilcox Bros. of Jackson. It was finally bought by Mr. Bickhart and operated by him until it was burned in August, 1904.

Brick Kiln

The Rice brothers' brick kiln was situated on the creek bank back of the present residence of Claude Faught. They made the brick for the first brick house in Leslie, the present home of Rev. W. C. Allen. Mr. S. O. Russell, assisted by James Torrey, William Spears and others, made brick for the first schoolhouse, and Samuel Rice made the brick for the Lemuel Royston house.

Foundry

A foundry was located just west of where the Michigan Central depot stands. Kettles, plowpoints, plows, drags, stair-plates and many needed articles were made here in an early day.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Yerby and Mr. James Torry had a lantern factory which was located in a building opposite

the hardware store of Howard Freeman. A washing machine factory was located on Mill Street. The machine was known as the "Ladies' Friend" and was widely sold through various agents. Town's and Crater's cooper shops were located on Bellevue street near the Bailey stave mill. Lemuel Royston's wagon shop was located just south of the post-office on Main Street, Henry Fry's on Mill Street and Mr. Drake's on Main Street near the present shop of Mr. Yerby.

VILLAGE INCORPORATION

The village of Leslie was incorporated March 30, 1869. The territory included was the south half of Section 21, the north half of Section 28, and a lot in the northeastern quarter in the southwestern quarter of Section 28. The Charter was amended April 15, 1871; April 18, 1873; March 14, 1877. The first election for village officers was held Monday, April 12, 1869, when eighty-nine votes were cast. The officers elected were: President, John D. Woodworth; Recorder, Edwin G. Eaton; Treasurer, William Spears; Trustees, John R. Von Velser, Alonzo B. Kimball, John R. Burdick.

The following have been village presidents since incorporation:

1869, John D. Woodworth; 1870, Haywood T. Allen; 1871, H. B. Hawley; 1872, J. Blackmore; 1873, G. B. Loomis; 1874, A. R. L. Covert; 1875, A. Young; 1876,————————; 1877, C. C. Walker; 1878, A. Hahn; 1879, A. C. Manley; 1880, J. W. Bailey; 1880-1892, record lost; 1892-93, J. W. Bailey; 1894, J. Wheaton; 1895, A. C. Manley; 1896, J. J. Belcher; 1897-98, J. D. Woodworth; 1899, W. F. Prescott;

1900, W. H. Johnston; 1901, J. W. Davis; 1902-04 B. M. Gould; 1905-06, A. J. Tuttle; 1907-08, F. L. Seger; 1909-10, M. P. Compton; 1911, P. J. Darling; 1912-13, G. W. Leach.

VILLAGE PLAT AND ADDITIONS

No record of a surveyed plat for the village is found until November 12, 1866. D. F. Dwight, A. T. Ingalls, Levi F. Slaght, James F. Allen, Haywood T. Allen and others caused a plot to be surveyed by Louis D. Preston on part of the south half of Section 21 and the north half of Section 28 to which was given the name of the Village of Leslie. The following additions have since been made: Godfrey, Aug. 6, 1868; Shaw, Nov. 12, 1868; Hahn, April 1, 1871; Doty and Kimble, Oct. 5, 1871; Armstrong, July 22, 1872; Sherman, July 25, 1872; Walker, Rust and Grout, June 3, 1873; Coon, Aug. 10, 1875; Woodworth and Dwight, Jan. 28, 1876; Clark, July 15, 1889.

BUSINESS INTERESTS OF LESLIE

Post-office

A post-office was established in Leslie in 1838. Henry Fiske was the first postmaster. The first mail was brought by a man on horseback. It could have been held in a cigar box so small was it in quantity. After a time it was brought once a week by the stage, then twice a week until the railroad was built in 1865.

Hiram Godfrey was postmaster in 1856. Sidney O. Russell held it afterwards for several years and was succeeded by James Blackmore who held the office from 1862 to 1886. His successors were James

Blair, 1886-1890; John Belcher, 1890-1894; Alfred Young, 1894-1898; George W. Dennis, 1898-1913. The first rural delivery route was instituted from the Leslie office in March, 1900. At present there are 6 routes which serve the surrounding country. The office is in the presidential class and the receipts during the last fiscal year were $3919.83.

Fire Department

In 1870, the village purchased several hand fire extinguishers and it was voted on June 21, 1872, to purchase a fire engine at an expense not to exceed $1000. It was put into service the fall of that year. In August, 1872, a lot for the use of the fire department was purchased of Reed & Allen on Carney street for $245 and an engine house was built upon it. In November, 1873, it was voted to raise $250 to construct two reservoirs for use in case of fire. These reservoirs were to be supplied by the water from the various flowing wells. One of these reservoirs was at the corner of Armstrong and Bellevue streets.

Protection Fire Co., No. 2, was organizd June 7, 1875, with 26 members. It was afterwards disbanded and in the summer of 1880 was reorganized under the same name with thirty members, twenty belonging to the engine company and ten to the hose company. At this time the department consisted wholly of volunteers.

The waterworks system which was installed in 1899 with the standpipe for pressure did away with the necessity for the fire engine. February 19, 1900, the fire company was reorganized and reduced to 17 members. The president of the village was em-

powered to appoint the members of the company. In February, 1910, the fire ordinance was again revised and the president of the village was authorized to appoint the Chief, and the Chief was given power to name his own officers and full company. In 1908, and each succeeding year, C. R. Brown was appointed Chief. The officers for 1913 were C. R. Brown, Chief and treasurer; D. D. Ranney, assistant Chief and secretary.

Hotels

The first hotel in the village of Leslie was located on the present site of the store of J. J. Murphy. It was originally built for a dwelling, but in 1844 was remodelled for use as a hotel by Nathaniel and Horace Smith. It was burned in 1852 and was rebuilt the same year by Horace Smith. Since that time the owners in turn were Aaron Ingalls, Homer King, Vincent Brown, William Moody, George Brough, Peter Standish, Perry Standish, Lafayette Andrews, James Hawley and Henry Hawley. The building was burned in 1907.

The Eagle Hotel was built in 1852 by Hiram Austin who conducted it for some time. Its owners since that time have been Horace Smith, Alonzo Kimball, Henry Loundsberry, Mrs. Longley, Wm. Carney, James McDaniels, and George Halsted. Since the death of Halsted, Wm. Weckerly and W. A. Brown have been proprietors under the names of the Carroll House and Hotel Brown.

The Allen House was built in 1872 by H. T. Allen & Son. It is a fine brick building on Bellevue street east of Main street. The cost of the house and fitting the grounds which contained an artificial lake

and island, and a bath house was about $20,000. The excitement over the mineral wells at Eaton Rapids and elsewhere caused the citizens of Leslie to experiment in the same direction but the enterprise never proved a source of profit and the Messrs. Allen were unfortunate in their investment. Between thirty and forty proprietors have attempted to run this hotel but never with much success. Its present owner is Ernest King.

Mineral Spring Block

In 1872, the building now occupied by the Bailey & Wood millinery was fitted with bath fixtures by S. O. Russell and E. Ward for mineral bath purposes. The place was made very attractive with fountains and flowering plants but it was patronized for only a short period of time. The water was beneficial in a certain class of diseases but the business proved a financial loss to all concerned.

Banks

A private bank was established in Leslie by Walker, Allen & Co., in the summer of 1869. This company was taken over by H. T. Allen & Co. in 1870. The banking office was at first in a store across from the present bank and afterwards in the Union Hall block. The first meeting for the formation of a National Bank was in the office of the Allen & Co. bank in 1874. The bank of Allen & Co. went out of business about the time the Allen hotel was completed.

The First National Bank of Leslie was established in 1864 with a capital of $50,000. The officers were: Arnold Walker, President; M. E. Rumsey, Vice-president; C. C. Walker, Cashier. It was reorganized

as a state bank in 1886. The name Peoples Bank was adopted at that time. The last statement to the Commissioner of Banking shows a capital stock of $25,000; surplus, $50,000; undivided profits, $7,299.-50; deposits, $301,002.27; resources, $388,328.79. The officers are as follows: President, Arthur J. Tuttle; Vice-President, M. L. Campbell; Cashier, A. L. Dowling; Directors: O. V. Tuttle, A. J. Tuttle, Grace Annis, M. J. Covert, M. L. Campbell, Fannie R. Haines and A. L. Dowling.

Newspapers

A paper called the "Leslie Herald" was established in Leslie in May, 1869, by J. W. Allen, and continued several years. Its business was finally transferred to that of the Leslie Local which was started in August, 1876, by W. W. Cook.

In 1884 it was purchased by J. T. Campbell who edited the paper for two years. He then sold out to F. C. Woodworth and B. M. Gould who continued in partnership two years. At the end of that time Mr. Gould became sole proprietor and shortly afterward bought the Republican, a newspaper which had been running a short time, and combined the two under the name "Local-Republican." The circulation of the combined sheets was 700 and it was issued in magazine size.

In 1904 it was purchased by G. W. Troman who made it into a 6-col.quarto. He is the present editor and the circulation is 1200 copies.

Bean Mills

The first bean mill was established in Leslie by W. F. Prescott & Co. The Prescott elevator was built in 1892 and the McLaughlin & Ward elevator in 1897. The latter is now used by the Leslie Grain and Produce Company and the Prescott elevator by the Leslie Elevator Company. The mill occupied by the Leslie Elevator Company at the present time was built by M. P. Compton, and rebuilt about four years ago.

Leslie is the center of one of the largest bean raising sections in the state. It has been a prominent buying market for twenty-five years. About 30,000 bushels are handled each year and $50,000 paid out to the farmers for the same. Thirty women are employed in the mills in hand-picking the product for market.

Leslie Home Telephone Company

The Leslie Home Telephone Company was organized July 6, 1908. The officers are as follows:

President, V. H. Grout; Secretary and Treasurer W. H. Graves; Attorney, A. J. Tuttle; Manager, S. M. Buckingham.

The following data shows the extent of the system:

Local subscribers, 280; rural subscribers, 330; toll stations, 3; miles of pole line, 64; miles of cable, 1¼; miles of iron wire, 235. Day and night service is given at the local exchange and the toll rates are very reasonable.

Undertaking

M. V. Armstrong was the first undertaker in Leslie. His home was located where Mr. Toohy's now stands.

The shop in which he made the caskets was in the same yard south of the house. Before his time the caskets were made by the various local carpenters. Rev. Wm. Taylor made a number of them. Mr. Titus was the next undertaker. At present this business is represented by Mr. B. A. Davis and Mr. Ogden Edwards.

Lumber Yard

A lumber yard was started in Leslie by S. O. Russell in 1870. V. H. Grout started another in 1872. In 1875 the Walker & Rumsey Company was formed. Henry Hodges bought out Walker & Rumsey in 1877. S. O. Russell gradually went out of business and V. H. Grout sold out to Bert Bithers in 1884. Soon after Mr. J. L. Torrey commenced business and continued until 1903 when he sold out to Lamb & Co. who sent Mr. S. J. Helme to manage the same. Lamb & Company, in 1906, disposed of the business to Mr. C. N. Holkins, who in 1910 bought the lime and building material business of Cyrus Pickett and has since managed the combined business.

Creamery

A creamery was established in Leslie by Edwin Stone in 1888. In 1894 he sold out to Geo. Wilcox who ran the business for four years. A company of farmers then bought the business and Paul Darling became manager. After a time the company was dissolved and the business bought by Charles Variell. The owners since have been Gregory & Cushman, C. N. Holkins, Mr. Pullen and E. J. Kneibehler. During the past year the creamery bought 396,000

pounds of cream from which was produced 130,000 pounds of butter for which $38,000 was paid to the farmers.

Nursery Business

Twenty-one years ago C. N. Flansburg, then living on a farm five miles east of Leslie, began in a small way to sell strawberry plants. His first catalogue had four pages and was mailed in an ordinary envelope. The business grew so rapidly that he was obliged to move to Leslie and here formed a partnership with W. W. Pierson who had developed a large business as a specialist in seed potatoes. In 1905 the interest of Mr. Pierson was purchased by E. W. Potter and in 1906 he acquired the interest of Mr. Flansburg who remained three years as manager of the business. Since that time the business has been under the direction and supervision of Mr. Potter and has had a steady growth. At the present time plants are shipped to nearly every state in the Union.

Electric Lighting

In 1889 the village made a contract with the Western Electric Company for an electric lighting plant. Afterwards they wished to annul the contract but the Western company refused to release them except for $2000. A company, composed of A. A. Lumbard, A. R. L. Covert, L. M. Russell, William Hutchings, C. A. Pendleton and V. H. Grout, arranged to take the plant and operate it as a private company. Eighteen arc lights were used to light the town. Later incandescent lamps for private use were added. The company suffered a nearly

total loss of its plant at the time of the burning of the Bickhart mill. The plant was rebuilt and continued to give service until 1910 when it was absorbed by the Commonwealth Company. This company now has 200 patrons and supplies the village with 25 street lights as well as with power for the pumping station. In all about 100-horsepower is consumed for lighting and power.

Water-Works

The present system of water-works was installed by Brooks & Son of Jackson in 1899 at a cost to the the village of $16,000. A stand-pipe and direct pressure system is combined. The water is obtained from flowing wells which are about 160 feet deep. The water is rather hard and carries a trace of hydrogen sulphide but is bacteriologically pure. A steam pump was used at first, but in 1910, two centrifugal electric pumps were installed. One hundred and seventy-five taps have been made since the system was installed and an average of 78,000 gallons is pumped each day.

The Builders and Date of Building of the Business Part of Leslie

The Union Hall block, now occupied by the Edwards store, was built by Alfred Young in 1871.

The Dennis block, now occupied by the post-office and the DuBois store, was built by G. W. Dennis in 1901.

The store occupied by Paul Vettere was built by Lemuel Royston about 1867.

For the building owned by G. W. Troman in which the Local-Republican is printed no record was obtained.

The Scofield block was built by William Sitts.

The King & Young drug store was built by John Belcher in 1894.

The Russell block, now occupied by the Freeman hardware, was built by S. O. Russell in 1873.

Johnston's store was built by W. H. Johnston & Co. in 1906.

The bank building was built by the First National Bank in 1875.

The Crowley store building was built by W. C. Tompkins in 1869.

The Bates bakery was built in the early seventies by Wm. Armstrong.

The store of M. P. Compton was built by J. W. Burchard in 1871.

The store occupied by the O'Brian millinery was moved to its present situation from a site south of the Dennis block by Geo. W. Dennis.

The garage owned by Geo. W. Dennis was built by William Haines in 1854.

The store occupied by Brownlee & Rumsey was built by Jonathan Shaw in 1873.

The Murphy block was built by J. J. Murphy in 1908.

The Robinson drug store was built in 1869 by J. B. Dousse.

The building occupied by DeLamater & Wood was built in 1860 by Thomas H. Reed.

The B. A. Davis store was built by Edward Ward about 1866.

The D. C. Morea building was built by H. B. Hawley in 1876.

The Smith bakery was built by James McDaniels in 1893.

The M. U. R. waiting room was remodeled by James McDaniels in 1893.

The Camp & McDaniels barber shop was built by Frank Farmer in 1893.

The Miner & Baker barber shop was built by Mrs. Burchard in 1900.

The Wood & Bailey millinery stores were built by Mr. Woodhouse at a very early date.

The Ranney store was built by Mr. Harris in 1900.

The building occupied by E. W. Potter was moved there by B. M. Gould in 1894.

The Mitchell block was built in 1906 by G. S. Mitchell.

The town hall was built in 1887.

Yerby's tin shop was built by Henry Small in 1873.

The various blacksmith shops were built as follows: John Boyle's by Henry Rice in 1878. Ed. Shaw's by Aaron Drake and Russell Godfrey for Steve and Clark Flansburg and Alfred Payne. Otis Updyke's by himself in 1912.

The Variell tin shop was built by Orville Variell in 1912.

The Harris tin shop which was built by Mr. Ben Gifford was moved to its present location in 1885.

The cider mill was built by Ed. Baker about 1899.

Societies

SOCIETIES

Grand Army of the Republic

Leslie village and township were well represented in a number of regiments and batteries during the Civil War. After the close of the war many veterans settled in the village and in 1870 they organized themselves into a company called "Leslie Comrades." A martial band of seven pieces was also organized by W. D. Longyear. With Joseph Wilson as captain this company and band made quite a patriotic display. Assisted by Mr. Stephenson of Jackson they put on a play at Union Hall entitled "The Drummer Boy of the Rappahannock" which was a great success.

Custer Council, Order of the Stars and Stripes, was organized in March, 1877, with twenty-three members. This society flourished for a number of years.

On May 25, 1882, Dewey Post No. 60, Grand Army of the Republic, was installed with nineteen charter members. W. W. Cook was the first commander. Dewey Post was named after Captain Albert Dewey of Co. A, 20th Michigan Infantry, who was killed at the battle of Weldon Railroad, Va., in 1865. Major Barnes of his regiment was wounded. Dewey was in the act of assisting him to the rear when he was killed. The honor of the name was fittingly bestowed for he was a true man and a gallant officer. One hundred and ninety-two names are on the muster-roll of this Post. The present number in good standing is forty-three. The Past Commanders have been:

Joseph Wilson, A. A. Lumbard, L. C. Rice, R. C. Bishop, J. B. Scovel, W. W. Cook and W. D. Longyear.

In the spring of 1902, $600 was raised to erect a soldier's monument in the cemetery. It was afterwards proposed by Comrade H. C. Rankin to build a memorial Hall which would be of use to the G. A. R. the W. R. C., and the village. Jan. 13, 1903, a committee of five was appointed to receive subscriptions for the proposed hall, and another building committee of five to supervise the construction. At this meeting C. W. Tufts proposed that the building should go to the village as a library when the G. A. R. should cease to use the same. The building was dedicated Nov. 18, 1903, and the total cost was $4500. At the time of the dedication a debt of $1600 stood against the property. This debt was afterwards paid by the village. The regular meetings of the Post and the Relief Corps are held in the hall. A collection of books, relics of the war, and many curios, is being made and no doubt will, in time, become the property of the village library when it is established.

The present officers are:

Commander, A. H. Laberteaux; Senior Vice-Commander, Charles Brunk; Junior Vice-Commander, Chauncy Carpenter; Quarter-Master, J. B. Scovel; Surgeon, Joseph Christie; Chaplain, S. H. Jones; Officer of Day, A. A. Leach; Officer of Guard, Jerome Cady; Adjutant, W. D. Longyear; Sergeant-Major, A. A. Lumbard; Quartermaster-Sergeant, William Johnston.

Sons of Veterans

The William A. Belcher Camp, No. 26, Sons of Veterans, was organized February 23, 1886, with H. B. Longyear as captain and a membership of thirty-two. Mr. Belcher was a member of the 12th Michigan Infantry and died in prison in Macon, Ga. This organization afterwards surrendered its charter.

Woman's Relief Corps

Dewey Relief Corps was organized in 1886 by Sarah A. C. Plummer of Lansing, with twenty-two members. Elizabeth Tibbets Wilson was the first president. Over one hundred names have been enrolled as members of the corps but death has reduced the membership to about forty. Dewey Corps contributes yearly to the flower fund that decorates many thousand graves of unknown dead that lie buried beneath southern skies. It has presented each Leslie Church and the kindergarten of the school with a beautiful silk flag. Its special work is in looking after the needs of the old Veterans and those dependent upon them, visiting the sick and providing flowers for them, and teaching patriotism in every possible way.

The present officers are as follows:

President, Alice Baker; First Vice, Lucinda Laberteaux; Second Vice, Cynthia Potter; Secretary, Lucy Bishop; Treasurer, Mary Smith; Chaplain, Minerva Jones; Conductor, Sarah Ackerson; Assistant Conductor, Matilda Blaisdell; Guard, Marion White; Assistant Guard, Mary Stockwell; Color-bearers, Sarah Lumbard, Florence Christie, Genela Riley,

Frank Torrey; Patriotic Instructor, Lucinda Laberteaux; Press Correspondent, Palmyra Hahn; Musician, Minnie Foster.

Masonic Orders

Leslie Lodge No 212, F. & A. M., was organized in the winter of 1865-66. In January, 1866, it received a charter from the Grand Lodge. Its membership was twelve. The first Master under dispensation was O. D. Ford. Dr. J. D. Woodworth was the first Master of the lodge after it had a charter. Its membership in 1913 was 147. The present officers are as follows:

Worshipful Master, B. O. Lumbard; Senior Warden, Fred R. Allen; Junior Warden, R. H. Nichols; Senior Deacon, A. E. Greene; Junior Deacon, Leon Sammons; Secretary, B. A. Davis; Treasurer, George W. Leach; Stewards, W. R. Clements, Branch Fischer; Chaplain, Rev. W. C. Allen; Marshal, W. H. Johnston; Tiler, John A. Winchell.

Leslie Chapter, No 100, R. A. M., was organized in 1876 with nine members. Allen C. Manley was the first High Priest. The present membership is 73 and the officers are as follows:

High Priest, W. H. Johnston; King, Fred R. Allen; Scribe, Ogden Edwards; Treasurer, Benjamin Wood; Secretary, F. M. Prine; Captain of the Host, Clarence Vliet; Principal Sojourner, H. J. King; Royal Arch Captain, B. A. Davis; Master 3rd Veil, W. F. Prescott; Master 2d Veil, B. O. Lumbard; Master 1st Veil, Branch Fischer; Sentinel, S. J. Helme; Stewards, M. P. Compton, W. R. Clements; Chaplain, Rev. R. B. Cilley.

Leslie Council, No. 50, R. & S. M. was organized in 1876 with twelve members. Edward Oldman was T. I. M. The present membership is 79 and the officers are as follows:

Thrice Illustrious Master, M. P. Compton; Deputy Illustrious Master, W. R. Clements; Principal Conductor of the Work, W. H. Johnston; Captain of the Guard, W. F. Prescott; Treasurer, M. L. Campbell; Recorder, B. A. Davis; Conductor of the Council, F. R. Allen; Steward, Clarence Vliet; Sentinel, S. J. Helme.

The Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter No. 26, under what was then known as the "Adoptive Rite of Masonry" was instituted in Leslie in 1870. It existed for sixteen years and surrendered its charter in 1886. The present chapter, No. 155, was instituted in 1895 and has enjoyed eighteen years of great prosperity. Its present membership is 155 and it enjoys the distinction of having among its members two Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter of the State of Michigan—Worthy Grand Matron, Melina Maxson, and Grand Ruth, Mrs. Margaret Troman. The present officers of Leslie Chapter, No. 155, are as follows:

Worthy Matron, Margaret Troman; Worthy Patron, W. F. Prescott; Associate Matron, Maude Wood; Treasurer, Frances Foley; Secretary, Sophronia Leach; Conductress, Pearl Layton; Associate Conductress, Grace Taylor; Adah, Nellie Morea; Ruth, May Norton; Esther, Tillie Young; Martha, Lucile Davis; Electa, Sybil Edwards; Chaplain, Elizabeth Wood; Organist, Emma Johnston; Warder, Lena Miner; Sentinel, A. V. Norton.

Independent Order of Foresters

Foster Lodge, No. 95, I. O. O. F., was organized January 25, 1866, with eight charter members. Philo B. Abbey was the first presiding officer. The lodge has eighty-two members, and the officers are:

N. G., Leroy Warner; V. G., Leslie Woodworth; R. S., James Craddock; Chaplain, Clyde Young; Warden, Fred Holtz; O. G., Jay Farley; I. G., Thomas Grow; Con., George Jones; R. S. to N. G., Samuel Mills; L. S. to N. G., Fred Hart; R. S. to V. G., Rankin Young; L. S. to V. G.,————————

Knights of Pythias

The Knights of Pythias were organized February 23, 1903, with the following officers:

C. C., M. L. Campbell; V. C. C., L. C. Lumbard; Prelate, W. Longyear; M. of W., F. J. McDaniels; M. of E., W. H. Johnston; M. of F., W. H. Graves; K. of R. and S., A. Dowling; M. of A., W. R. Clements; I. G., S. M. Mizer; O. G., C. H. Starkweather.

The present membership is 72 and the officers are:

C. C., O. J. Edwards; Vice-C., Howard Freeman; Prelate, B. A. Davis; M. of E., R. H. Nichols; M. of F., A. J. Stitt; K. of R. and S., J. W. Bailey; M. of A., ————————; I. G., D. L. Kent; O. G., A. J. Wheaton.

Modern Woodmen of America

Leslie Camp No. 1707, M. W. of A., was organized November 17, 1896, with the following officers:

Venerable Consul, W. S. Rhodes; Worthy Adviser, H. L. Royston; Ex-Banker, G. H. Schenck; Clerk, G. S. Mitchell; Escort, J. A. Lincoln; Watchman,

C. E. Fenner; Sentry, J. H. Babcock; Managers, F. M. Farmer, W. H. Johnston, H. W. Brown; Physician, J. N. Green.

The present membership is 51 and the officers are:

Venerable Consul, C. H. Luther; Worthy Adviser, E. W. Potter; Ex-Banker, C. E. Fenner; Clerk, N. Hocking; Escort, F. A. Armstrong; Watchman, J. W. Knauf; Sentry, F. D. Jones; Managers, C. H. Luther, E. W. Potter, Rankin Young; Physician, A. E. Greene.

Modern Brotherhood of America

Martha Lodge No. 1404, M. B. of A., was organized by Geo. W. Aiten, June 28, 1904, with thirty-three charter members. The officers were:

President, William Rogers; Vice-President, Thos. Woodrow; Secretary, John W. Davis; Treasurer, Ada Davis; Conductor, Fred Haltz; Chaplain, Martha Woodrow; Watchman, Ella Haltz; Sentry, Clarence Haltz.

The lodge at present has 21 members and the officers are:

President, Herbert Grossman; Vice-President, Fred Haltz; Secretary, Katherine Slack; Treasurer, Josephine Miles; Conductress, Edith Haltz; Chaplain, Edith Grossman; Watchman, John Haltz; Sentry, William Slack.

Royal Neighbors

The Royal Neighbors who were organized May 7, 1900, have at present twenty-three benefit and five social members. The officers are;

Oracle, Ida Farley; Vice-Oracle, Estella Wood-

worth; Past Oracle, Lucy Mitchell; Chancellor, Delphina Cazier; Recorder, Carrie E. Phillips; Receiver, Anna Armstrong; Marshal, Ada Oldman; Assistant Marshal, Sadie Horton; Inner Sentinel, Minnie Man; Outer Sentinel, Myrtle Knauf; Managers, Irene Torrey, Sadie Horton, Susie Reynolds.

Knights of the Modern Maccabees

Leonard Art Tent K. O. T. M. M. was organized February 15, 1892. The officers at present are as follows:

Past Commander, John C. Haltz; Commander, Clayton Jewel; Lieutenant Commander, Thomas Jones; Record Keeper————————; Finance Keeper, Rankin Young; Chaplain, S. O. Vince; Master-at-Arms, Fred C. Haltz; Sergeant, Frank L. Mason; Right Guard, Walter Wilson; Left Guard, Claude Leach; Sentinel, Frank Coon. The present membership is 63.

Lady Maccabees

The Lady Maccabees were organized April 2, 1889. The officers were:

Past Commander, Hattie Laberteaux; Commander, Minnie Young; Lieutenant Commander, Sarah A. Mark; Record Keeper, Jessie M. Green; Finance Keeper, Lucy Mitchell; Chaplain, Emily Stone; Medical Examiner, John Green; Sergeant, Clara Purdy; Mistress-at-Arms, Susie Reynolds; Sentinel, Barbara Rolfe; Pickett, Nellie Beadle.

The present membership is twenty-six and the officers are:

Past Commander, Lottie Rumsey; Commander, Lou Lansing; Lieutenant Commander, Clara Pickett; Finance and Record Keeper, Lina Pickett; Chaplain, Abbie Fox; Sergeant, Edith Barr; Mistress-at-Arms, Susie Reynolds; Picket and Sentinel, Sarah Michael.

Telephone Grange

Telephone Grange received its name because it was organized over the telephone on November 20, 1900. The regular meeting at which organization was planned to take place was made impossible by reason of a bad storm. Nothing daunted the organization was finally effected as described above by Deputy Master P. G. Towers of Lansing. There were thirty charter members. December 5, 1900, Telephone Grange met at North Leslie schoolhouse and received their charter, No. 874. The following officers were elected for 1901:

Master, Manley Van Auker; Overseer, W. J. Lewis; Lecturer, C. R. Hasbrouck; Steward, E. E. Beadle; Assistant Steward, Ray Blackmore; Chaplain, E. E. Sherd; Secretary, Leon Sammons; Treasurer, W. D. Longyear; Gate Keeper, Mike Hendershot; Pomona, Mrs. Perry Backus; Ceres, Mrs. Elmer Beadle; Flora, Mrs. M. VanAuker; L. A. Steward, Mrs. J. Laxton.

The G. A. R. Hall at Leslie was secured as a regular meeting place and the first regular meeting held there January 24, 1901.

The present officers are:

Master, Thomas Barr; Overseer, Roy Wood; Steward, Floyd Taylor; Lecturer, Grace Wood; Assistant Steward, Ollie Wood; L. Assistant Steward, Isabelle McCreary; Chaplain, Mrs. W. D. Long-

year; Secretary and Treasurer, Flave Taylor; Gate Keeper, Emery Perry; Pomona, Mrs. C. Jewell; Ceres, Mrs. T. Jones; Flora, Mrs. Elmer Chapman. The present membership is sixty-four.

E. O. T. C. Club

The Ladies' Literary Club of Leslie was organized in 1893 under the name of "The Twentieth Century Club". It was federated in 1894 and changed its name to "The E. O. T. C. Club" (End of the Century Club).

The club is in a flourishing condition and has fifty-three active, seven musical, six associate, and seventeen honorary members.

The present officers are:

President, Helen Lacey; Vice-Presidents, Alice Helme and Sadie Jones; Secretary, Zora Buckingham; Treasurer, Emma Johnston; Auditor, Jessie Annis; Reporter, Rosa Whitney.

In 1910, the club erected a drinking fountain on Main street which was dedicated to Mrs. Della Stitt. A rest room was provided in 1912 and a gift of $130 made toward fitting out the new school play-ground.

The Elijah Grout Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution

The Elijah Grout Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution was organized in Leslie, on October 7, 1910, by Mrs. Kittie Bailey, with sixteen charter members, viz: Kittie Bailey, Lucile Conger, Lois DuBois, Ruby Greene, Lenora Hutch-

ings, Minnie Kimmel, Margaret Kimmel, Olive Kitchen, Elva Murphy, Carrie Poxson, Laura Scovel, Lennie Stitt, Lucretia Scofield, Henriette Taylor, Grace Taylor and Mina Vliet.

The officers appointed for the first year were as follows: Regent, Mrs. Kittie Bailey; Vice-Regent, Mrs. Elva Murphy; Corresponding and Recording Secretary, Miss Olive Morse; Treasurer, Mrs. Lois DuBois; Registrar, Mrs. Mina Vliet; Chaplain, Mrs. Henriette Taylor; Historian, Mrs. Minnie Kimmel. These officers have been re-elected each year with the exception of the Vice-Regent who resigned in the second year. The vacancy was filled by the election of Mrs. Delia Fogg. A second Vice-Regent, Mrs. Frances Foley, was added in 1912. The present membership is twenty-two. Leslie has the distinction of being the smallest town in the state that has a chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution.

The chapter has taken up various lines of work. Each year it has contributed to the deficit in the Memorial Continental Hall Fund; sent a small amount to the fund for the support of Real Daughters; its name is among the list that presented the bronze seal of the state to the University of Michigan; it has offered prizes and assisted students in the Leslie high-school; cared for the grave of the widow of a Revolutionary soldier; signed and circulated petitions for a sane Fourth and for other worthy projects. The work for the past year has centered largely upon the early history of Leslie, a labor of love and patriotic devotion. An effort has been made to

bestow honor upon the early pioneers and to bequeath through these pages to the coming generations a realization of what they owe to these worthy ancestors.

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